

Inspiration is food.

Food is good.

**Analysis is your number 1 food source. Feed your ears, Feast your eyes.
... prepare to offer your audiences a banquet.**

There are no bandaid fixes. Shortcuts only cheat you of your own growth.

There is a world of experience that came before you - and will continue after you -
Use it to your advantage. You are smarter for going deeper.

- **Use the Process - Inspiration, Imitation, Assimilation, Innovation**
 - use these stages of identification when reviewing performances in order to help you identify blank spots - Identifying these traps and successes will help you figure out what you want and don't want for yourself when you are on stage.
- **Use the Identity gauge - Rehearser? Entertainer? Performer? Artist?**
 - You may easily hear and see elements of these four attributes unified, or separated - what is most interesting to you?

The most important thing you need to know about being a performer, is that your main job is to make room for the audience to have a full, emotional and musical experience, during your performance.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND -

- You have no control over what other people experience. (repeat this as a mantra)
- You have full control over the depth of your OWN honesty and skill. Hopefully, your audience finds this inviting ... but again, you can invite, but it is their decision to chose to accept it ..
- Remove any distractions the audience might have - be it musical inaccuracies, or even being too musically pushy or arrogant .. there is a big difference between confident and excellent, and showing off and trying to impress.
- No amount of technique can compensate for emotional inaccessibility.
- No amount of emotional pathos can compensate for lack of technical study.
- Transparent technique, with maximum emotional access is the point.

- Study the masters -- how do they remain excellent, yet accessible?
- Stay humble. Humility not only helps you master your craft, but keeps you open and receptive whilst on stage.
- Get flexible - be so good that you can make mistakes and incorporate them into your performance .. make mistakes on purpose whilst rehearsing and test your skills at recovery.
- Variety is the spice of life - that schtick might not last long -- keep breathing life into your performance - everytime -
- Humility is a skill. Humility and excellence are a balanced skill.
- Always always, rehearse as if your audience is in the room with you.
- Be yourself. Find out what you want to say - and how you want to say it .. NOTE - Imitate, assimilate, innovate -- follow this path. Learn from your heroes, then branch out ...
- Be absolutely curious about what is possible --
- **Responsive Phrasing**
 - Each phrase should be expressed as a response to an emotional cue -
 - Stay in motion.
- **Objective/ Obstacle/ Consequence**
 - What do you want the ultimate point of the piece to be? What is the take away for the audience?
 - What are the consequences if that objective is not met?
 - What is the obstacle in the piece?
 - Was there an “expectation of the win” propelling the movement?

NOW - let's analyze some great performances - watch and listen and learn ...