

The Art of Listening

Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force...it creates us, encourages us to open and expand.

Listening is an art form. For anyone this is true. Ahh, the **Art of Listening**. Perhaps you take this precious art form for granted? If you can hear, you can listen... Developing and refining listening skills is an essential part of practice.

Listening is one of the **most important ways you can improve** your playing! Let's begin by asking some questions.

What are you listening to?

Are you open to hearing **all of yourself**?

Are you blocking out certain sounds?

Do you really hear what is coming out of your instrument?

Do you hear what you want, or imagine what you want to hear?

How keen are your listening skills?

Do you hear yourself with the same detail that you hear others play?

What would like like to develop in your listening art?

Here are some ways to develop your listening art : Recording yourself and listen to it. Develop your ear through ear training-solfège. Focus on one element of your playing at a time and enhance each element. Believe you can do it. Pursue your weakest listening skill and improve that first. Listen to something new each day. Listen to music of all kinds and begin to notice and be curious about everything you hear, and don't hear. Write things down that you hear as you observe classes and lessons of fine teachers.

How is what they are saying about what they are hearing? Be open and curious in your journey in **The Art of Listening**.

More Ideas: The Listening Book by W.A. Mathieu and The Sacred Art of Listening by Kay Lindahl. See my Art of Listening Article.

Listen: Mahler- composer **CV: Symphony #5 , Berlin Philharmonic** **Look:** Symphony #5 - Adagietto, Berlin Philharmonic

Listening & 4 Ears

Much silence makes a powerful sound ~ African Proverb

How you listen is what transforms you as a musician.

The Art of Listening is the Path to becoming a Great Artist, Musician / Flutist. What are you listening to? How sensitive, aware, refined, integrated, fresh, are your listening skills?

Make sure to cleanse, open and nourish your ears during each practice session. **There are many kinds of Ears you can use** to enter the Path, to the Art of Listening. It is essential to learn about and Master all of these Ears and Levels of Listening. Here are some ideas for your listening journey:

4 Ears

1. Physical
2. Mental
3. Emotional
4. Spiritual

Physical Ears: Hear all Sound, all Vibrations...Notes, Tones, Intervals, Chords, Rhythms, Melodies, Harmonies, Rests...

Mental Ears: Hear and ask...

What is working? How do I practice this? What am I hearing?

Is what I am hearing what is coming out of my instrument?

What is that person hearing that just made a comment about my playing or about the music?

How do they hear something that I do not hear?

How do I describe what I am hearing: ie. style, period, composer, chords etc.? How do I make sense of the music. Is this a technical issue, a tonal issue, a physical issue, a stylistic issue, a phrasing or expressive issue? How do I create that sound, that rhythm, that color, that virtuosity, that kind of articulation, that rit., that diminuendo, that dynamic expression??????

Emotional Ears: Have an emotional reaction, response to the music. Feel the music. React to the energy, the dynamics of the music. Want to describe the emotional nature of the music. Feel the movement of the music. Want to become involved with the music. Express how you feel about the music you are practice or listen to. Wonder....How do I play with this music so that it comes to life? Hear the emotional content in a note, phrase, piece of music. Are engaged and connected and involved in an emotional way.

Spiritual Ears: Hear and inquire: Is there an even deeper meaning and level of musical expression?

The Art of Listening requires you to be actively involved. You have to be doing it, and engage all of yourself. Use all your Ears, senses, your whole body must participate. This will expand your ability to hear on many Levels.

More Ideas: Read my complete Article -The Art of Listening - 4 Ears. To see ways to develop all your ears. www.creativeflutist.com

Listen: Take a class with **Steven Finley** on the Art of Listening

Look: www.flutefx.com