

The Musician's Way Newsletter

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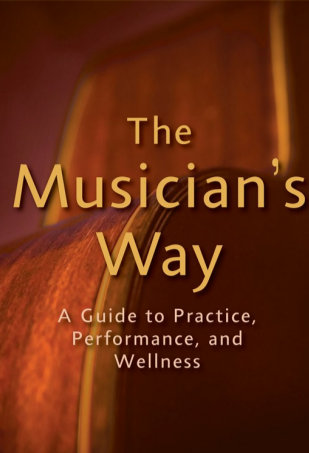
February 2010

Dear Fellow Musician,

Welcome to the February 2010 issue of *The Musician's Way Newsletter*, dispatched quarterly and designed to keep you informed about topics related to music making, music education, creativity, and living the musician's life.

Additional resources can be found at MusiciansWay.com.

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GERALD KLICKSTEIN

"Wherever you hope to travel on your musical journey, practice is the only route to getting there."
The Musician's Way, p. 3

Toward Better Collaboration



"Collaborative music making is one of life's true joys."

The Musician's Way, p. 114

Few of us musicians exclusively make music alone. Yet even though collaboration is central to our art, music schools offer scant courses or seminars that address the concepts underlying creative teamwork. Do you find that odd? I do.

Chapter 6 of *The Musician's Way*, titled "Musical Collaboration," probes the interactive nature of our work. It focuses on the three things upon which a group's artistic success depends, aside from the members' musical abilities: group culture, interpersonal skills, and rehearsal strategies. It also provides guidelines for forming a group. I invite you to explore that chapter and also read and comment on my blog post, "[Toward better collaboration](#)."

From The Musician's Way Blog

Some of the most popular posts from the past three months:

- "[Music: The practical career?](#)" A 3-part article designed to help rising musicians flourish in today's music profession.
- "[Balanced shoulders, open heart](#)." Efficient movement habits promote both wellness and creativity.
- "[The benefits of accessible music](#)." Wise repertoire choices fuel both artistic and technical development.
- "[Dialing down the effort meter](#)." How reducing effort amplifies accuracy and creativity.
- "[The ultimate practice shortcut](#)." Is there really a fast track to mastering a composition?

Voice Care

Did you know that the musicians with the most voice problems aren't singers? They're school teachers! That fact underscores the need for all musicians to acquire fundamental knowledge of vocal health. What's more, when instrumentalists become sensitive to matters of voice care, they become better able to collaborate with singers.

Pages 268-277 of *The Musician's Way* examine seven voice-care basics, drawing on the expertise of leading researchers, physicians, and teachers. The text considers hydration, practice habits, lifestyle, colds, allergies, and more. It also lists the top ten indicators of vocal trouble and how we should respond to them.

In tandem, the [voice care](#) portion of MusiciansWay.com contains links to resources for vocalists and teachers. The [For Singers](#) page compiles bonus content, such as warm-up tips, links to repertoire and choral sites, and more.

Interview with Oboist Joseph Robinson



Principal Oboist with the New York Philharmonic from 1978 until his retirement in 2005, Joseph Robinson speaks candidly to Gerald Klickstein on *The Musician's Way Blog* about music making, artistic development, and living the orchestral musician's life. Click [here](#).

Career Resources at MusiciansWay.com

To complement the career-development topics covered in Chapter 14 of *The Musician's Way*, the [Music Careers](#) page at MusiciansWay.com is packed with valuable resources.

Those resources include links to dozens of websites that offer job listings, career guidance, and much more.

The information is geared to both performers and teachers.

Digital Recorders

If you don't yet own a [portable digital recorder](#), now is a great time to buy one because prices have dropped.

These compact devices use onboard stereo mics, let you record at various rates from Mp3 to wave, and allow for easy data handling; that is, you can readily upload and share audio files.

For self-study recording and the everyday recording needs of music students, these gadgets can't be beat. My students and I use the Zoom [H2](#) and [H4n](#) as well as the Edirol [R09hr](#) (model numbers link to the manufacturers' websites).



Music & Higher Education in the U.S.

The College Music Society has published a 3-page document titled, "[Facts and Figures Concerning Music and Higher Education in the United States](#)." Here are some highlights:

- "In 2007-2008, enrollment in music programs was approx. 326,975 persons."
- About 3.29 million students will graduate from high school in 2010.
- States and institutions spent \$5.36 billion for music in higher education during 08-09.
- In 08-09, approximately 45% of the instructional units in music departments were generated by non-music majors.

Advocating for Music Education

Would you like to publicize, initiate, or expand a music education program in your area? Is an existing program near you in danger of elimination? The [advocacy resources](#) at MusiciansWay.com will help you launch, celebrate, and preserve music programs in your region.

Featured websites serve residents of the U.S., the U.K., Canada, and Australia.



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