

Characteristics of a Great Musician in Diana Haskell's Studio

MATURE

talks through differences in studio instead of lashing out; takes the high road; gets work done on time; refrains from slander and gossip about others in the studio; is gaining self-control; balances work and down time; faces fears calmly; respects all people and relationships; admires but does not idolize great players; not manipulative; critiques own playing but does not criticize others' playing; understands that being a great player is a responsibility and a gift; practices clarinet without argument; practices clarinet through feelings of frustration

HAS GRIT

resilient; determined; perseveres; gutsy; has a backbone; does not quit; works despite personal hardships; keeps going in the face of failure; single-minded focus but not at expense of another person; creative in problem-solving

HONEST WITH A BIG DOSE OF LOVE

does not ask others to lie in order to protect one's reputation or ego; admits immediately when wrong and take steps to correct; apologizes - does not deflect even if embarrassed; kind; gentle; NO gossip against other students or teachers; acts well with integrity; plays clarinet with same integrity

COURAGEOUS

is working through mental barriers; perseveres through doubt; helps others who are belittled even when everyone else leaves the scene; takes a stand for what is right; is not a chameleon in word or action — yes is yes and no is no; makes extra effort to converse with people of different generations, political views, races or creeds; determines to play well when nervous

HUMBLE

working to be free from arrogance or defensiveness; grounded in truth; seeks to perform without excessive worry about self; serves music and composer more than own ego; cares about others' feelings in the studio; does not ask for special treatment from students or teacher; thinks more highly of others than self (different from 'beating oneself up' with negative self-talk, which is undesirable); recognizes the destructiveness of jealousy and envy

THOUGHTFUL

learning how to think critically; learning to truly listen carefully; thinks through all sides of playing and life issues; avoids overuse of words: 'always, never, none'; has concern and consideration for others; grace towards others

HUMOROUS

is gaining understanding/usage of appropriate humor; knows that being funny (telling a good joke) is different than being humorous, which involves not taking oneself too seriously; balances work with fun and humor; avoids sarcasm towards others as a defensive mechanism

"To be gritty is to keep putting one foot in front of the other. To be gritty is to hold fast to an interesting and purposeful goal. To be gritty is to invest, day after week after year, in challenging practice. To be gritty is to fall down seven times, and rise eight."

— Angela Duckworth

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." — C.S Lewis

"Clarinets, like lawyers, have cases, mouthpieces, and they need a constant supply of hot air in order to function." — Victor Borge