

GREAT PERFORMERS I ADMIRE...

Strive more to EXPRESS, than IMPRESS

Have less to PROVE through music and more to SAY through music

Seek first to UNDERSTAND before they wish to be UNDERSTOOD

Focus primarily on their ways they can make a CONTRIBUTION, and less on ways of seeking others' RECOGNITION

Know when to FOLLOW and when to LEAD

Understand that a career resembles a MARATHON more than it resembles a SPRINT.

Seek to EARN respect not DEMAND it.

Play WITH not THROUGH others.

Assume no one OWES them anything.

Desire to SHARE more than simply RECEIVE

Do "simple" things extremely well.

Make the people they play with sound better, sometimes better than they ever are

Tend to be the best listeners

Are committed to maintaining and developing solid musical fundamentals and outlets for their creativity.

Constantly search for like-minded performers to collaborate and learn from.

Understand that an emotional performance is not just about how "they" feel.

Play in a relaxed way.

Understand when to LEAD and when to FOLLOW.

Know that being "right" is not always the best criteria for making suggestions in rehearsals or sessions, especially when your job is to play the music however the person in charge wants to hear/perform it.

Only ask questions where the answer will make the conductor/leader/composer/ensemble's job easier or more efficient, or to clarify something the whole group needs answered, not just for their own personal edification/clarification and definitely not to call show how clever they are.

Usually possess much more technical skill than you will ever at one of their performances.

Display creative musicianship that combines a sense of the familiar and the unfamiliar.

Make a beautiful sound, even when the music gets "ugly".

Are flexible to the group/setting/conductor they are playing with/in.

Are able to make people they play with sound better than they are used to.

Listen closely, deeply and with intent.

Understand and study the tradition of their instrument and the music they wish to perform.

Always stay connected to what drew them to their instrument and music in the first place...and reconnect to those things on a regular basis.

Alex Iles

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