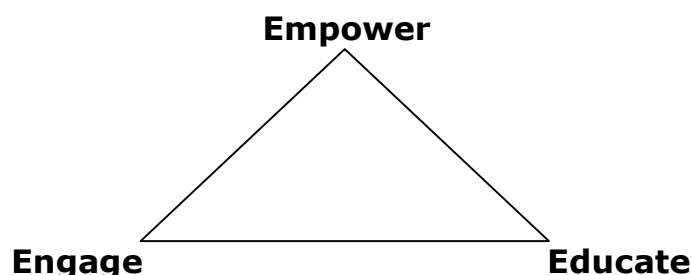


The "DNA" of Leadership

The "cradle" between dissonance and consonance

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In music, beauty often comes out of dissonance, such as a resolved suspension; in metallurgy, gold is more pure "after the fire"; and through conflict do people often understand the importance of peace. Life is frequently a juxtaposition of two seemingly very opposite poles, and successful leadership is born in that cradle between the two. The idea of embracing this relationship between "dissonance and consonance" –

being *vulnerable, yet confident,*
teaching the *moment, while teaching life,*
viewing art as a reflection *of humanity, yet a refuge from humanity*

is precisely the place between two very different poles where the "DNA" of leadership is born. In other words, the very thing that often causes one to step out of the comfort zone (the "dissonance," the "fire," the "vulnerability") is often the same thing that makes one a great human being and teacher." Opposites are not contradictory but complementary." (Niels Bohr)

There are three fundamental steps to effective teaching – engaging, educating, and finally, empowering. In each of these, the key is the balance between the "dissonance" and the "consonance," or the balance between two different, but very complimentary "poles."

Music teachers who **ENGAGE** students, find a "hook" or common denominator between the subject matter and student's interest or psyche. (The students open their minds to the possibility that something worthwhile or interesting is happening.) This step has to occur before further learning can effectively take place. Great communicators and teacher-conductors find connection with students by balancing between ...

Vulnerability to others (the "dissonance")

- "A work of art is a confession." (Albert Camus)
- "Art is the indecent exposure of the consciousness." (Herbert Edward Read)

juxtaposed with

Confidence in others ("consonance")

- "Only in others can we renew our life and so perpetuate ourselves."
- "One cannot truly engage others until one truly cares about others."

Once the student is engaged in the activities of a classroom or ensemble, the teacher has a better chance to **EDUCATE** and provide skill-sets on which the students can rely as productive members of society. Teacher-conductors who enjoy optimum success, balance...

Teaching details ("moments")

- "One should first direct oneself in the way he should go. Only then should he instruct others." (Buddha)
- "Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education." (Mark Twain)

juxtaposed with

Teaching people ("life")

- "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people" (Chinese proverb)
- "A teacher affects eternity: they can never tell where their influence stops." (Henry Adams)

Finally, helping students "connect all of the dots" and find strength in synthesizing ideas into a powerful solution-oriented mindset, is to **EMPOWER** them by helping confidently interconnect their education with their career choices.

Reflecting ("silence")

- "Dreams are journeys that take one far from familiar shores, strengthening the heart, empowering the soul." (thinkexist.com)
- "Technology has taken "moments" from us – and moments of reflection keep us focused on our passion." (Bill Zinn)

juxtaposed with

Creating ("music")

- "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation." (John F. Kennedy)
- "Education can be defined as working with people, young and old, to prepare them to live in the future. The future may be bright. The future may be gray. But, most importantly we must insure that there will be a future." (Willard J. Jacobson)

It is true – beauty comes from consonance, pure gold can only come from the fire, and yes, people often learn more from *how* something is said, than *what* is said. Life is full of checks and balances – juxtaposed poles of teaching and learning. **Over a 25-year career, the average ensemble director interfaces with and teaches about 5,500 students – five thousand, five hundred** human beings who need to be engaged, educated, and empowered. May it be so.

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