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Teaching Philosophy Statement:

The Alliance of the Scholar, the Performer, and the Educator

I believe that performance and education are the two major components of a musician's career. Thus, a symbiotic relationship between the two should be established by any individual who is aspiring to leave a legacy and to serve as an inspiration to the next generation of professionals. Said another way, the successful studio teacher is a performer who both communicates his/her knowledge to individual audiences (students) and models that knowledge on a daily basis.

Underlying the performer/teacher's pedagogy is solid research about all aspects of music. Music history and theory can describe the social and historical context in which the music was created, informing both the performance of that music and how that performance is taught. This approach transforms teaching from "this is how we do it" to "this is *why* we do it this way." Done well, this ignites this same approach within the students' practice strategy, by communicating these ideas and teaching them about the benefits of applying this methodology in their daily plan. The sum total of this teaching philosophy is that the teacher takes on the role of guiding and a facilitating a process for successful student learning.

It is also the teacher's responsibility to model and inspire self-discipline and motivation, developing students who are eager to acquire sufficient knowledge to achieve high levels of scholarship and performance skills and, ultimately, becoming an educator themselves in service to theirs and future generations. Encouraging students to become scholars, researchers, and self-evaluators is critical to accomplishing this.

I believe musicians who devote themselves to serve in academia should be highly motivated professionals capable of developing new pedagogical ideas informed by their performance and scholarship, and to possess the communication skills necessary to convey these ideas as a perfect alliance of scholarship, performance, and continuous learning and improvement. In the end, the successful teacher is one who equips students to become the designers of their own fate, both professionally and as citizens, so that the power of music can continue to make its impact known in the world.