

**Reflections  
on the Past  
and  
Professional  
Development  
Plans for the  
Future**

## Reflections on the Past and Plans for the Future

Although my ideas for my future plans have been percolating in my mind for quite some time now, setting them down on paper gives me an opportunity to concretize and prioritize them.

My first step will most likely be to resume my piano lessons with Madeline Bruser. I studied with her privately in 1990 and 1991. I have been having some difficulty readjusting to playing after the stroke. Madeline is the perfect teacher for me because she knows how to calm me down. I even did some Tibetan meditation (Shambala) at her suggestion. In her 1997 book, *The Art of Practicing*, she writes “Passion, confidence, and vulnerability are evidence of musical talent. If music were not in our blood, we wouldn’t have such strong feelings.”<sup>1</sup> I need to get my confidence back, and I think that continuing my lessons with Madeline is the right prescription.

I would also like to resume my vocal studies, but where to find a good teacher amongst all the charlatans in New York? Jayne Skoog was my cooperating teacher at Long Island City High School. She has told me many stories about her teacher Franco, who gives each of his students specialized instruction according to his or her needs. So Jayne seems to be the right address for further vocal study.

I recently purchased Sibelius, “the state-of-the-art music notation software – a fast, intelligent, easy-to-learn and (not least) fun-to-use professional program which helps you write, play back and print music.”<sup>2</sup> Using this software, I will be able to print out my own warm-ups, instead of relying on a professional copyist. I am only just learning to use

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<sup>1</sup> Bruser, Madeline. *The Art of Practicing: A Guide to Making Music From the Heart*. New York: Bell Tower, 1997. 9.

<sup>2</sup> Finn, Ben et al. *Sibelius 2: User Guide*. Cambridge: Sibelius Software Ltd., 2001. 24.

the software. I hope to teach an AP music course. Perhaps I will be able to print out some of the best compositions of my students, display them on the bulletin board, and perform them in concert.

I would like to attend the NYSSMA State Conference to exchange pedagogical ideas with other educators, and to have my student ensembles participate in the All-State Festival.

I would like to develop my own curricula for choral and general music based on the ARTS PROPEL portfolio model.

I conducted several concerts in the past with the Massapequa Philharmonic, many members of which were school music teachers. Drawing on this experience, I would like to be able to affect my eventual community in a positive way by leading an adult community chorus, perhaps with the participation of some of my students.

Finally, I would like to convert this portfolio into an e-portfolio, with all the documents and recordings being easily encapsulated on a single CD-ROM.

Working on this summative project has been a valuable experience for me. I thank the Graduate Music Education Faculty at Queens College for reviewing my work, and I hope that we can stay in touch in the future.