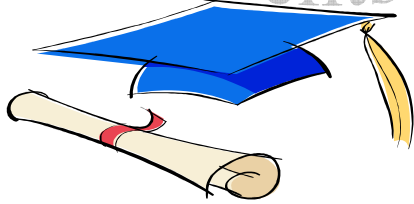


For Parents!



Sept 04, "Boo, Boo, Boo, Square Root of Two" by Malcolm Gladwell

Article adapted from "Examined Life," in the Dec 17, 2001 issue of the New Yorker

The first half of the article explored the concept that coaching the SAT was plausible. Doing poorly on the SAT was usually not due to lack of ability, but to poor study habits, inadequate instruction, or a combination of the two: the SAT "was not an aptitude test at all." Then further in the article there is a description of a musical test which we think will be very interesting for all of you. *Quote:* "Some years ago, a group headed by the British psychologist John Sloboda conducted a study of musical talent. The group looked at 256 young musicians, between the ages of 10 and 16, drawn from elite music academies and public-school programs alike. They interviewed all the students and their parents and recorded how each student did in England's national music examination system, which, the researchers felt, gave them a relatively objective measure of musical ability. What we found was that the best predictor of where you were on that scale was the

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PARKING INFORMATION:

Parking is in the gravel lot in the front yard and please watch for children and pedestrians as you back out. You may also park in the back yard (gravel base) for additional parking space during concerts and other activities. Guests may enter using the side or front doors.

Safety first!



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Administrative Notes

Communication

Students may call at any time during the day and leave a message. We will try to return the call as soon as possible and if it is a late hour, we will send an email message. Email has been an effective way for students to reach us. We check often and try to respond to our messages promptly. It is our policy not to answer the phone when we are practicing and teaching, except during very bad weather or some other emergency.

Your Yearbook

Each year we publish a yearbook that contains all important studio policies and tuition information for your convenience. Please review the calendar for your lesson weeks and take note of the breaks.

Missed Lessons

Our studio policy requires that you give us 24 hour notice for a missed lesson.. We prefer to reschedule your missed lesson during the same week you missed if there is an open time available. A 24 hour notice often opens up a make-up lesson time for other students and the courtesy is mutual. We also set aside make up days during holidays if a make up lesson cannot be scheduled during the teaching week. Please note we do not credit missed lessons except for the ones we miss and cannot make up. Please try not to miss your lessons and if you do, it is your responsibility to pursue your make up lesson by contacting us.

Parents at Lessons

We encourage parents to attend their child's lessons so that they can offer support, encouragement, and help with following lesson assignments at home by watching and perhaps taking notes at the lesson.

There will be situations when students work better on their own and we will respect the student's wishes and the parents' judgement.

Parents are welcome to read in the waiting room or in the studio.

Siblings must read or listen quietly. It is important that they are very quiet as to not disturb lessons in either of the studios.

Quote continued from previous page:


number of hours practiced. Think about it, a little hard to believe. We conceive musical ability to be a "talent" - people have an aptitude for music - and so it would make sense that some number of students could excel at the music exam without practicing very much. Yet Sloboda couldn't find any. The kids who scored the best on the test were, on average, practicing 800 percent more than the kids at the bottom. People have this idea that there are those who learn better than others, can get further on less effort, says Sloboda. On average, our data refuted that. Whether you're a dropout or at the best school, where you end up can be predicted by **how much you practice.**

Sloboda found another striking similarity among the "musical" children. **They all had parents who were unusually invested in their musical education.** It wasn't necessarily the case that the parents were themselves musicians or musically inclined. It was simply that they wanted their children to be that way. The parents of the high achievers did things that most parents just don't do, he said. They didn't simply drop their child at the door of the teacher. They went into the practice room. They took notes on what the teacher said, and when they got home they would say, Remember when your teacher said do this and that. There was a huge amount of time and motivational investment by the parents.

Does that mean that there is no such thing as musical talent? Of course not. Most of those hardworking children with pushy parents aren't going to turn out to be Itzhak Pearlman; some will be second violinists in their community orchestra. The point is that when it comes to a relatively well-defined and structured task- like playing a musical instrument or taking an exam - **how hard you work and how supportive your parents are have a lot more to do with success than we ordinarily imagine. Ability cannot be separated from effort.** ... Acquiring test-taking skills is the same as learning to play the piano or ride a bicycle, Stanley Kaplan said. It requires Practice, practice, practice. Repetition breeds familiarity. Familiarity breeds confidence. In this as in so many things, the grind is the natural." *End quote.*

- ◆ **Thanksgiving Break, 1 week:**
November 20-26
- ◆ **Winter Break, 4 weeks:**
Dec 18, 2005 - Jan 14, 2006
- ◆ **Make-up lessons only:**
Week, December 11-17

Studio Calendar

 **Performance Classes:**
Dec 4 & 11 at 1:30 PM
Adults perform Dec 11 at 3:30PM

November 2005						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2005						
Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2006						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				