PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

AS AN EDUCATOR, MY GOAL IS TO LEAD STUDENTS WHO ARE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT PERFORMERS, BOTH CREATIVELY AND TECHNICALLY. EQUALLY, I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT TEACHING MY STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO NAVIGATE TODAY'S EVER-CHANGING WORLD WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSETS NECESSARY TO CREATE A MEANINGFUL, SUSTAINABLE LIFE IN MUSIC AFTER SCHOOL.

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY BEGETS MUSICAL FREEDOM. IN ORDER TO BE CREATIVELY INDEPENDENT AS A CLARINET PLAYER, ONE MUST FIRST MASTER THE INSTRUMENT. IN THE TRADITION OF MY OWN FORMATIVE YEARS, I TEACH TECHNIQUE USING A COMPREHENSIVE METHOD THAT INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO LONG-TONES, SCALES, ARPEGGIOS, THIRDS, AND ARTICULATION. AS A DEVELOPING CLARINETIST, THESE EXERCISES ARE CRITICAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS IN ALL AREAS OF THE REPERTOIRE AND ARE TO BE MEMORIZED AND CRITIQUED FOR LONG TERM SUCCESS. I BELIEVE THAT CONSISTENTLY PRACTICING AND FINE-TUNING FUNDAMENTALS EACH DAY WILL PRODUCE A CLARINET PLAYER WITH A GOOD QUALITY TONE, TECHNICAL COMMAND, AND CLEAN ARTICULATION IN ALL REGISTERS. AS CLARINETISTS, BOTH AS PERFORMERS AND EDUCATORS, WE ARE OFTEN WORKING ON MANY PIECES OF REPERTOIRE AT ONCE. THE MORE EFFICIENTLY THAT MUSIC CAN BE LEARNED CORRECTLY, THE BETTER THE PERFORMANCE WILL BE. PREPARATION PERMITS CONFIDENCE AND CONFIDENCE IS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE WITHOUT PREPARATION.

MY STUDENTS WILL STUDY ETUDES AND THE TRADITIONAL CORNERSTONES OF THE REPERTOIRE, GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TECHNICAL AND MUSICAL DEMANDS OF THIS MUSIC AS WELL AS A HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING OF EACH PIECE AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORY OF THE CLARINET. MY STUDENTS WILL ALSO PERFORM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC BY MODERN COMPOSERS AND BE INTRODUCED TO EXTENDED TECHNIQUES THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO BEING A PERFORMER IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

ABOVE ALL, I BELIEVE IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A PERFORMER AND PEDAGOGUE TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE ALL OF MY STUDENTS FEEL INSPIRED, MOTIVATED, AND VALUED TO CREATE MUSIC AND BE THEMSELVES. WITHOUT THE FREEDOM TO EXPERIMENT AND GROW, I BELIEVE THAT THE STUDENT IS UNABLE TO TRULY FIND THEIR OWN VOICE. IT IS MY GOAL TO PROVIDE ALL OF MY STUDENTS WITH AN ARSENAL OF TOOLS NECESSARY TO BECOME THE BEST MUSICIANS THEY CAN BE NO MATTER THEIR GOALS.

VINCE DOMINGUEZ, DMA