



Lost Secrets of Master Musicians: A Window Into Genius

David Jacobson

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Can Talent be Explained? The "Secret" Techniques of Great Musicians

In this groundbreaking look into the world of "classical" music, David Jacobson interweaves his educative experiences at the Curtis Institute of Music with his quest to understand how performers such as Jascha Heifetz, Nathan Milstein, Vladimir Horowitz, and Glenn Gould achieved such unsurpassed levels of musical expression and technical skill. What were their "secret" techniques and musical insights?

Jacobson has spent many years analyzing the approach of these and other master players uncovering their "secrets" (including how note grouping and "laws of phrasing" affect the technique and musical expression of playing) which he explains in clear, precise, non-technical language, supplemented by color diagrams, photographs and annotated musical examples. His conclusion: the methods, paradigmatic shifts and musical approach of these masters are *essentially the same*, yet, fundamentally different from what is taught by contemporary music teaching systems--such as those of Ivan Galamian and the Suzuki method (which is critically examined)--for string playing, orchestral instruments, piano and voice.

Jacobson's dissatisfaction with contemporary pedagogical methods, which tend to be based on the personal beliefs of particular teachers, led him to search for a more rigorously researched pedagogical platform (by studying the methods of great masters) that could serve as a fundamental paradigmatic model for the teaching of all instruments and voice. His exploration of the "secret" techniques and musical insights of great performers aims to revitalize the art of classical music in general. The rediscovery of these techniques and concepts will:

- Provide a paradigmatic pedagogical model for the teaching of all instruments and voice
- Make playing easier and more expressive
- Improve the effectiveness of teaching; the principles of expert playing are clear
- Develop talent naturally, without impediment
- Create many more outstanding performers and composers
- End the need for a conductor's presence in orchestral performance
- Change our ideas about the nature of genius, talent and our own potential

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