

THE MUSICIAN'S TOOLBOX

Thoughts on Teaching and Learning Music

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INTRODUCTION

One of our teachers once likened a percussionists' mallet bag to a toolbox and said, "Do you think a plumber with one wrench gets many jobs? The more tools you have, the better prepared you'll be." We recalled his toolbox analogy while discussing the concept of this book and thought the same rationale could be applied to short ideas on teaching and learning.

Our goal is to help develop a fresh approach to nurturing musicianship in all disciplines and age groups. In this book are 111 tools designed for both teachers and students of music. Following each tool are projects intended to assist in putting that tool into action. As any tool is only effective if used at the right time and in the right application, it is important to think about the timeliness of each of these concepts and projects as you read. It is impossible to implement all the ideas at the same time, so decide which are most appropriate for you right now and focus on those. As your skills develop, return to the toolbox to select a new tool that will help you accomplish your next goal. Eventually, you will use the ideas presented to develop your own, and continue to fill your toolbox.

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