

Bonus - Episode 10 (Go Try; Go Fail) Start

Stephen: Hello podcast listener. Here's just a quick bonus minisode with Blaire. When I was all done with the questions that me and the students had prepared for her, I asked if there was anything else she wanted to talk about that we missed, and, well, here's what she had to say:

Blaire: I think I have one thing that I kind of... it's a thread that I've talked to other people about, but I cannot stress it enough. Educate yourself outside of school. School is a fantastic place to meet wonderful individuals and a great community of individuals who are going to support you and be your colleagues for all of the rest of your life to provide you with very particular classes and even just insights to things. But school is not how the real world works, right?

So when you go do a gig, you don't get 12 rehearsals of two and a half hours. And, you know, a conductor that knows your name and people that you can communicate with for months on end, you will get a piece three days beforehand that's contemporary and you've never seen it before and you just need to learn it and learn the conductor's style and the rest of the group next to you rather quickly. And that's a skill in itself. And you won't necessarily always learn that in school. There's other skills outside of that.

Of course, you know, teaching, working with kids of all different ages where, you know, if you're doing teaching and you're getting secondary lessons, you're getting college students. But what if you got a 10 year old? What if you had a 61 year old? You know, and trying for different internships or other jobs, talking to people outside of school. So go talk to your professor and say, "Hey, you know, do you have somebody that does blah?," or, "What's it like to do blah?," and then go figure that out. That might be: What's it like to be a lawyer and entertainment? Right. If you're really interested in this and being an advocate. What's it like to be more of a community engaged artist that does a lot of things in the local area? And how do I engage with that community, et cetera?

So reach outside beyond school, take auditions, take the hard stuff, test things out, try it out, get curious, talk to other people, because from inception we usually come up with like one or two jobs that we potentially might do in the music world. And then we assume we know what it's like because we assume it's got to be similar to what we have experienced in school, right. Where you are doing, you know, a lot of great repertoire or you're getting auditions to try to be the soloist and so forth. But then you might get actually into the orchestra and you are sixth chair and you'll never get a chance to try the solo opportunities or, you know, get a choice at all in which cycle you sit off or sit on or whether you're doing the pop concerts or not.

So definitely talk to people, try stuff out outside of school, experience things in the real world because it's a little bit different of a situation. And the main reason for all that is because you're going to get a lot more insights that way, you're going to get a lot more experience. You're going to get a lot more understanding that way. And you can meet a lot of people in the process as well. And that will just give you more knowledge to build from more experience, more skill sets, plus all that stuff you probably can add on your resume.

So you also are very applicable to apply to other positions and you'll have lots of materials to pull from. But that's really, really important because I have worked with a lot of students who come to me getting ready to do even the typical military orchestra opera pit options. And they have never done an opera pit before. So when they give the resume to me and I said, OK, great, what opera? They don't have anything, OK, because I had an orchestra stuff. But you're going to go down the list a little bit because you haven't done that. In addition, your excerpts are going to be completely different than what you're doing for orchestral stuff. So heads up to that. So you want to try things because it's going look on and you're going to build that experience. You're going to get an understanding of what it's really, really like, and you're going to meet people along the way.

And that's kind of the whole point of this, is to explore. School is a very safe environment to try and fail. The real world is a very different environment to try and fail. Go, try, go fail. It's going to happen at least some time. Embrace it, go do it, pick yourself up, learn from it and move forward, because you might as well do that when you have a professor to go back to and talk to about how you could do it better than when you're basically on your own and having to figure out, "OK, now can I get a mentor to go talk to about this?" And you have to go find your mentors. Right? So build those relationships now. Try stuff out now. Get curious. Don't do it every day, don't fit every week, one a month, do something like that, like, you know, your monthly vitamin.

Go out and try because you'll be surprised how many things you learn, how many people you meet and how you can grow trying these things out and testing out stuff outside of school.

{outro music}

Stephen: Thanks to Blaire Koerner for sharing one more invaluable nugget. If you haven't listened to the rest of the series with Blaire, be sure to go back in our feed and listen to all of those minisodes.

Today's show was edited by me. I did all of the intro music. And the outro music was composed by Alexa Silverman. Please be sure to follow us on SoundCloud or the IML's Facebook page for

podcast updates, and, of course, you can always email us with comments, questions, or ideas for future episodes.

Now, go out. Make art. Do good work. From the IML, I'm Stephen Biegner. Until next time.

Bonus - Episode 10 (Go Try; Go Fail) - Blaire's topic, End