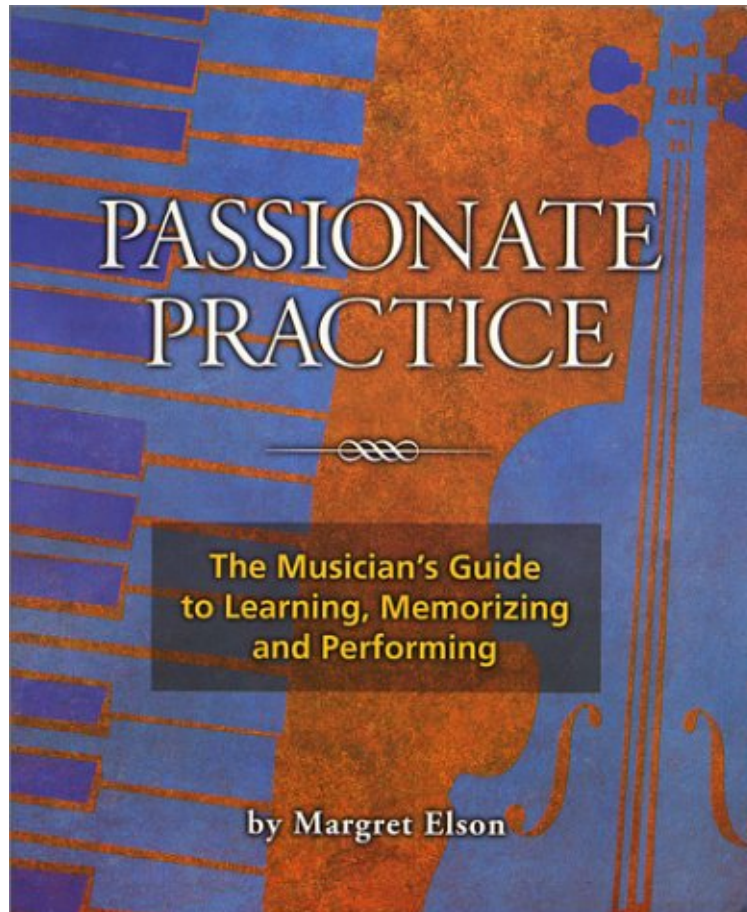


[Download] Passionate Prac: The Musician's Guide to Learning, Memorizing and Performing

Passionate Prac: The Musician's Guide to Learning, Memorizing and Performing

Margret Elson

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Margret Elson : Passionate Prac: The Musician's Guide to Learning, Memorizing and Performing before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Passionate Prac: The Musician's Guide to Learning, Memorizing and Performing:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. My Life as a Statue By Karen Laws What I look for in an instructional manual are easy-to-follow instructions, personality, and at least one good tip that I can internalize for long-term use. Margret Elson's Passionate Practice succeeds on all three counts. As soon as the book arrived, I began working my way methodically through the various exercises and I found them all easy to understand, if sometimes tricky to do. Elson's humor and straightforward, encouraging language helped me to stay on task. What have I internalized, now that this book is tucked away among my Mozart and Beethoven piano music? A greater awareness of tension in my hands, not only when I'm at the piano, but when I'm talking on the phone or driving. As soon as I notice my hands clenched on the steering wheel, remembering Passionate Practice, I relax them. Ditto for that tough

phone call--and when I soften my grip on the handset and breathe, the phone call usually gets easier. I loved Elson's technique for attacking problems with memorization and/or wrong notes when two sections of the music are only slightly different. The short version is that you get into the position of two statues that express the feeling of the two passages, and it's surprising how very different statues One and Two can turn out to be. After practicing my statues away from the piano, I find my knowledge of the music substantially changed when I return to the keyboard. For more detailed accounts of this and other techniques, I recommend you get your own copy of *Passionate Practice*. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. *Elegant Pianist and Creative Teacher* By P TAs someone who has known Ms. Elson for several decades, I can attest to her pianistic artistry and her creative teaching. As an experienced piano teacher myself, I have found her ideas for performance preparation, including practice/preparation techniques and focussing techniques during performance, which draw upon many different sensory resources to be extremely helpful for both me and my students. A number of my students have sworn by it. What I appreciate about Margret is her ability to write a book that is both concise and yet rich in content, easily readable and humorous, yet effective in its step-by-step processes. She practices what she preaches by reaching the reader through many sensory approaches. Anyone who has heard her performances knows that she plays with exquisite taste, style and passion. I highly recommend this thoughtfully written book. 11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. *Excellent book* By wannabe mozart Contrary to what Mr. Schmidt has written, I have to differ that this book is one of those typical "new age" self-help books. There is real substance and common sense mixed in between the poetic quotes. What people might fail to see is that the author is an artist herself and is passionate about her subject. Rather than write in dry, technical jargon, she illuminates and illustrates her examples with a high degree of wit and philosophical reflection--the very grist we need to persevere in what is an otherwise, daunting artistic process. I have studied piano privately with the author for several years and can tell you that her book is just skimming the surface of what she is actually able to teach in person. The author knows her stuff and produces successful results.

"*Passionat Practice*" provides the necessary steps in learning how to relax, focus and concentrate. It includes concrete ways to free yourself from modes of thought and behavior that restrict the passionate exchange between you and your art. Artists in all fields who use the techniques in "*Passionate Practice*" unlock new levels of mastery, confidence and success.

"*Passionate Practice*" offers a comprehensive and positive path toward authentic musicality. -- John McCarthy, Director of Preparatory Extension Divisions, San Francisco Conservatory of Music Simply stated this book is terrific. It reads beautifully and will help not only pianists but other performers as well. -- Diana Darby, Ph.D., Pianist, Composer, Inventor, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering and Music, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering There are rich implications here not only for artistic development but for the psychotherapeutic treatment of blocks to creative expression. -- Louise Bettner, PhD., Clinical Psychologist, Classical Pianist, Faculty, John F. Kennedy University About the Author Margret Elson's dual careers span 30 years of teaching and coaching pianists, vocalists and ensembles, and 25 years as artistic counselor to artists and performers. She is a licensed psychotherapist and was certified as a hypnotherapist. She has performed as a soloist and in ensemble, and in 1993 she and her piano partner Elizabeth Swarouth received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to produce the CD, *Twentieth Century American 4-Hand Piano Music*, issued on the Laurel Record label. Ms. Elson's musical background includes ten years as a piano scholarship student at Juilliard, Preparatory Division, and studies in the San Francisco Bay Area with Marjorie Petray and Alexander Libermann. In addition, she has masters degrees in Psychology, Journalism and Political Science. In 1983 she opened the Center of Artistic Counseling in Oakland, and has presented her innovative work at international conferences such as *The Biology of Music-Making* (Denver), and *The First International Conference on Mind, Body and the Performing Arts* (NYC), and in Oslo, Norway and London. Throughout her work, she seeks to maintain her sense of humor.