

"THE WAKE-UP CALL"

(Staying In Touch With the Magic In Your Music)

By Jerry Jemmott

"Nothing penetrates living existence like the sound of music"

Do you remember the first time you were put under its spell? Can you recall the joy of discovering a performer or style that touched your soul, embodied your thoughts, and motivated your desires?

Discovering new sources and re-establishing your old choices will enable you to focus on the music that speaks for you, and to you.

We are embarking on a journey by way of an innovative program of discovery, assimilation and reinforcement techniques. It will help you to attain musicianship and mastery of your instrument. Combine this with your life's experience and you will be able to produce the magic that only you can make.

First Call - STYLE

Style is the way in which some aspect or type of music is presented. Usually created through distinctive rhythmic and harmonic patterns with a corresponding melody.

Here is a run down of twelve popular styles and their origins:

1. Classical - European.
2. Folk - native music of a culture or nationality.
3. Blues - Black Americans.
4. Gospel - Southern Black American,
5. Rhythm & Blues - Black Americans.
6. Rock 'n Roll - Black Americans.
7. Pop Rock - easy listening Rock.
8. Afro-Caribbean-Latin-Tribal (A-C-L-T) - the dance music of these cultures.
9. Country and Western - Southern Americans and the Cowboy (of which 60% were Blacks).
10. Jazz - Black Americans.
11. Hip Hop - modern urban Black Folk music.
12. Pop - a combination and distillation of all styles and eras.

The brain is like a fire that is fed by knowledge. Here are three basic questions that only you can answer. If you are serious, you will need to write down the answers in a notebook to keep them in focus and aid in your remembering them. Knowing these answers will energize your music and "work the magic."

1. What style of music and what performers do you like?
2. Why do you like what you like and what does it do to you, and what does it do for you?
3. How does it relate to your personality, character, morality, ethics religion, culture, politics, upbringing, fantasies, desires, inner visions, ideals, ethnic origin and the way you do things?

Usually it is a combination of the various styles and the performers that impress you and that shape your own individual style. Keep these elements in mind when translating your innermost thoughts and feelings into musical expression.

Gather your sources (videos, movies, biographies, CD's, tapes, radio station programming and of course live performances). Divide them according to style and era. Make note of the similarities and differences. Find out who and what influenced your heroes. During the next five segments, we will dig deeper into style.

Second Call - Assimilating a Style

Third Call - Reinforcing a Style

Fourth Call - Creating Within a Style

Fifth Call - Improvising Within a Style

Sixth Call - Developing Your Own Style.