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A Study In Banjo Lessons

By Colin P

Ah, I remember the good old days when I had my first banjo lesson. Actually, it wasn't exactly my first lesson. I had been using the internet to improve my "skill" for a while, and I was slightly conceited since I thought I had some idea about what I was doing. I watched videos of a real expert playing the banjo while the tabs were available as well. I learned a few songs and techniques that sounded interesting, but that was about the extent of my knowledge.

When I had my first real lesson, it broke down all those illusions I had of being a decent player. I tried to show off, but as soon as his deep eyes met mine I missed a chord. It was my first time to ever play any instrument in front of anyone, and I didn't think I would get nervous. After all, I've always been a gifted public speaker. The only one in the room was my teacher, and I was having a terrible time.

I'm having a hard time seeing my future in banjo playing, especially since I can't even whack up the ginger to play something in front of my own teacher. He's a nice guy, and he can play the banjo like no other. He's already taught me several exercise I can use for my next lesson. It's also a great experience just to watch him play, since his skill far outweighs mine. I just hope I will sound at least slightly more decent the next time I have a lesson.

But if I always freeze up when I try to play at my lessons, I'm worried that my instructor will never be able to give me the help I truly need. It's impossible to get feedback and constructive criticism if everything I play is absolute garbage. I think I will start recording my lone practice and playing it back for him. Hopefully I won't freeze up just knowing that he will be listening to it soon...

For more banjo related information and entertainment topics, visit:

<http://www.entertainmentadvizer.com>

Wake Up to the Life You Love

By Greg Reid

A Study In Banjo Lessons

While speaking at a San Diego university recently, I was fortunate that I was not asked to leave the stage. You see, I chose to share with the students in my audience some frightening statistics. I announced that, while many would receive their degrees, few - very few - would end up pursuing careers in their chosen field. At this point, the faculty began giving me dirty looks.

I went on to say that, while most students were there to pursue a dream, the dream they were chasing was not their own. Many students enter college to live up to the expectations of family, friends, and society. They've been told they should become an accountant, lawyer, doctor or teacher because of the great future and financial gain. In trying to do what others think they should do rather than following their individual passions, they rarely continue along the same path once they leave campus.

Instead, I painted a different sort of picture. Using an off-the-wall example to illustrate my point, I asked each of them to imagine that he or she really wanted to become a banjo player. I said, "What if you took the same period of time and energy pursuing that dream, your dream, your passion? What if you began as an apprentice at a banjo shop, and then worked hard to learn everything about banjos? After four to six years, the same time you would have spent earning a degree that you would not use anyway, you would instead have become an authority on banjos. A real banjo aficionado. Know why?"

"Because you'd be following your passion," I continued. "You would become captivated by the topic, and the pursuit of this goal would no longer feel like work, as much as it would be a part of who you are. Staying up late reading and learning everything there is to know about banjos, listening to old songs and then creating new ones would not be a chore; it would become your joy, because you'd be doing what you love."

Now here's the best part. There will always be a call for authorities in any area. So no matter if your pursuit is toward playing the banjo, inventing new ice cream flavors, or discovering the latest medical breakthroughs, there will always be a demand for your services, thus creating success in your chosen field of endeavor.

This is where true happiness and fulfillment comes in: getting paid to do what you enjoy most while living the life you love. Because . . .

When you do what you love, and love what you do, you'll have success your whole life through!

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A Study In Banjo Lessons

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