

Name: Michael Remy

What has gone well for you throughout Q1 (if in band/orchestra, list things from both ensembles):

I'm going to write this from my perspective as a musician, not a teacher...

I'm feeling more confident in my abilities on both saxophone and violin. I've recently moved all of my instruments over into my little studio at my house and that's been huge for getting a little practice time in each night. I'm continually astounded at what a difference even 20 minutes of practice every day does for my playing. I'm continually disillusioned that it takes hours a day to see gains and that's just false. My violin playing in particular has improved. In prepping for orchestra, I've been playing the parts before rehearsals to get a better sense of what the challenges might be and it's been a hoot.

Venturing into teacher territory- my favorite part about teaching is working in small groups and/or one on one and seeing real growth in a musician. Working with some of the beginning strings has been huge. There was a group of younger musicians doing classical/jazz all state and that has been so refreshing to see them go for it and work towards something. Those things really inspire me as a teacher and a player. I love hard work.

Where are you struggling?

I wish I had more time. I wish I was writing more music and being more creative. I don't really have folks to play with here, so it's just me, alone in my little cabin and it still feels forced. We have everything we need in this present moment to feel alive and to be creative- only our minds stay in our way and though it's really hard, it's available to us now! So that's hard for me. I get in my own way.

I want to be able to improvise fast lines on saxophone, like a bebop master.

I want to play music with other people without having to go through all the hoopla.

What do you want to be able to do that you can't do now?

Play fast bebop on saxophone. Know the upper neck on guitar/bass. Be able to play jazz piano.

Find confidence in sharing my voice (vocals). Drums. Just drums in general.

What are your biggest dreams right now regarding music?

Again, I'd really love to play with others.

I also never feel adequate at teaching. I'd love to find a way to feel confident and proud, while continuing to strive for growth.

Are you listening to anything that you really dig right now?

Oh yeah, always. Album of the week continues to be a big thing for me. Really into Aaron Parks new album- it's kind of atmospheric jazz. The kind of "jazz" you don't have to think about too much. You can put it on while sautéing some onions. Sometimes that's nice. Loving Joe Purdy again- a singer-songwriter I was super into from 2008-2010. Love his albums 'Canyon Joe' and

'This American'. Loving Yo-Yo Ma's new recording of the Bach Cello Suites too.

Why do you like playing music?

It's the clearest way I can express myself- to make feelings mentionable and manageable. I started making music when I was 3 at my great grandma's piano- it's kind of like my first language.