

MORE PRAISE FOR ROSINDUST !



***Rosindust: Teaching, Learning and Life from a Cellist's Perspective* by Cornelia Watkins. Rosindust.com, \$28.95**

A day in the teaching studio can make us feel like Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*, reliving the same lessons and giving the same responses to issues of technique, intonation and musicality. As time passes, our skills are sharpened and the answers come quicker. Cellist Cornelia Watkins turned these high frequency lessons into a newsletter, and now has turned them into this succinct guide to the issues that make up the bulk of the studio teacher's job.

Watkins divides the notes from the studio into the various aspects of teaching and playing and she explains how to teach left- and right-hand technique, shifting, intonation, vibrato and musical interpretation for students of all levels.

Within each chapter is a toolbox of techniques to both discuss and practice the issues at hand. *Rosindust* is best used as a companion over a series of weeks- even months- which gives a teacher time to experiment with and expand upon the techniques.

One topic that Watkins discusses with particular insight is the downside of developing tension while playing. Having waged my own battle with tendinitis years ago, I found that her "Seven Sources of Tension" offers a fresh perspective on how to practice in the healthiest way possible.

Though written from the perspective of a cellist, cello-specific passages such as those on vibrato and fingering are vastly outnumbered by passages on the general issues of teaching stringed instruments.

Her chapter titled "Why We Practice" lays out goals well beyond playing more accurately or expressively and may force you to consider how much of your past practice time has been inefficiently spent. A three page practice glossary has a medicine cabinet of remedies for that wasted time, so your students won't suffer the same fate.

Watkins' writing is clear and concise, and conveys her love of teaching and her students. If you want the benefits of 30 years of experience without the time investment, this is a worthwhile addition to your library.

-TRISTAN ARNOLD

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