

Ensemble Musician's Creed

I believe it is possible to achieve a unity of bodies and minds in integrated sound, such that we seem as one; lost in an exalted transcendental state.

I further believe every moment we play together is an opportunity to reach this most unique communion of the human spirit and that the essence of such potent music-making is to have each of us experience every emotion implicit in the music.

I, therefore, believe each of us has an obligation to approach each musical interaction as physically, intellectually and emotionally prepared as possible; bringing to it all that is essential and leaving behind anything that will interfere with complete musical involvement. For the actions of each ensemble member either contribute to or weaken the unity of the group.

I believe we can best present our craft when we assume a posture of anticipation, alertness and quietness.

I believe each of us has a responsibility to focus our attention on the shape, volume, color, pitch and placement in time of every sound produced within the ensemble; utilizing all of our senses to achieve spontaneous synchronization of the entire ensemble.

I believe that each of us must be not only the most subservient follower but an assertive leader; alternating roles instantaneously as required by the music-making.

I believe musical growth and group cohesion flourish in an atmosphere of mutual respect, cooperation and trust.

-----Hugh Whaley, IUP alumnus, Master's degree in 1991

