BEYOND THEORY

*The Making of a Music Teacher*

By Eric -----

OUTLINE

Foreword by Dr. Chris Kachian

**Introduction**

* Overview/scope of book
* Core Values
* The Teacher’s Teachers

***SECTION ONE: First Lessons***

Overview

Chapter One: *Roots and Road Trips*

* Coon Rapids
* Latch-key kid
* Ants in the cereal
* Mom worked full-time while going through college
* Time spent at grandparents house
* Blaine
* Grandmother worked right across the street
* Trip to St. Louis with grandfather
* OTR Trucker and Salesman
* Never met a stranger – could really work a room
* Value of a handshake, looking people in the eye, remembering their name
* Mom not crazy about me spending too much time with him (hanging around truckers and barflies)
* Hearing George on the radio

Chapter Two: *And Then There Was Music*

* My Grandmother
* Had more friends than anyone I’ve ever known
* Sang in church choir over sixty years
* Believed in me from the beginning
* Got me in church choir at 5
* First recital
* Piano lessons

Chapter Three: *Role Model Riley and the Sports Spotlight*

* 5th grade teacher John Riley
* First real role model who was a teacher
* Wooden quote
* Baseball
* Football

Chapter Four: *Puttin’ On the Ritz…almost*

* Climbing the choir ladder
* NPR recording
* Mrs. Hasselman and the wrong socks

Chapter Five: *Martial Arts and Messy Jam: The High School Years*

* Martial arts
* Guitar lessons
* Jamming with The Steel Pennies – clueless about theory
* Giving up on guitar
* Meeting Erin

***SECTION TWO: Higher Learning***

Overview

Chapter Six: *Modulating Majors*

* Entered Anoka-Ramsey Community College as Health and Exercise Science major
* Jim Malinowski and playing a party
* Anthony Titus
* Mom encouraged me to take guitar lessons again
* Tony was my teacher, saw something in me
* Encouraged me to join jazz ensemble and take more music theory classes
* Pilot program
* Met Chris via phone while working at Edinburgh Country Club
  + - Cooking and lessons of apprenticeship
* Joined Chamber Choir
* Started band with Ben

Chapter Seven: *California Detour*

* Went with Erin and Ben to play music in central CA
* College, Lithuanian teacher
* Made the decision to become a music teacher
* Laying the groundwork for St. Thomas

Chapter Eight: *St. Thomas, Mentor Magic, Music City, and Marriage*

* Dr. Christopher Kachian - life mentor, opened doors, pushed me to grow
* Without him, none of this would have happened
* Recognized my work ethic
* Auditioning for Chris and Joan
* Ensemble failure
* Going to quit, but Tony tells me people are invested in me
* Begin studying with Chris
* Chris gets me first teaching jobs
* Built recording studio
* Nashville
* Rocky Lynne
* Recording
* ASCAP embarrassment
* Married on graduation day

Chapter Nine: *Revelations From Revak*

* Just graduated from St. Thomas, got a job at Good Guy Music, Josh came in to get lessons
* Developed friendship
* Different backgrounds
* Josh’s Memorial Songs
* Transformative power of music
* “Music comes from God”
* Pioneer Press, radio and TV

Chapter Ten: *Doctoral Dropout*

* 2007-2010 Working at Good Guy, theater, making more money than I’ve ever made before
* Bought guitars, built studio
* Period of change: theater job dried up, writing on the wall at GG, lost brother-in-law to cancer
* Grad school seemed like natural evolution; Chris advised me to go to grad school and study with Van
* U of M
* Enrolled in 2010 to pursue Master’s in Guitar Performance
* Dr. Painter and Sound Targets
* Writing for newspaper
* Disillusionment with higher education
* Realized it wasn’t teaching me the things I needed to know
* Staff upheaval
* Systemic problems with the higher education model
* Dean Sorenson – drop your class and pursue your dreams

***SECTION THREE: From Student to Teacher***

Overview

* Quit teaching at U of M
* Dave Ramsey
* Mission Statement

Chapter Eleven: Humility

* Started school thinking I was “all that”, but in reality didn’t know anything
* Just signed commercial lease, bought a new desk, framed diplomas on the wall
* The phone wasn’t ringing until my wife called and asked me to buy some diapers
* Realized it’s not about me
* I don’t get to choose the color of my socks

Chapter Twelve: Effort

* You have to start at the bottom
* Putting up sheet rock, installing electrical outlets, etc.
* The efforts of my family
* Teaching up to 80 students at a time

Chapter Thirteen: Learning

* The cycle of learning
* I was in your shoes, and this is why I want to help you
* Accept that there are always things to be learned

Chapter Fourteen: Passion

* Driving an hour through the snow to teach a student for ten bucks
* Nobody gets rich doing this
* Can you endure?

Chapter Fifteen: Service

* Realized if we were going to win, we were going to build it on service
* Appleby’s – “Chef Mike”….we went because of service. Because they made us feel special
* Learned by watching people in the hospitality business
* 55-inch TV
* Too many teachers come in with an agenda
* Little Mermaid/Italian aria

Acknowledgements

About the Author