

John-Edward Kelly

Aphorisms

on Life & Music

(Use Arrow Keys to Scroll to Next Pages)

Skills can be learned,
But Art must be Awakened —
From the Deep Slumber of Consciousness,
Out of the Collective Memory of
All Mankind's Joys and Sorrows.

Economics may well fill bellies,
But only ideals can nourish souls.

Lift

Results from the Interaction
Of Movement and Resistance;

Without Resistance,
There can be No Flight.

Liberty

Results from the Interplay
Of Vision and Discipline;

Without Discipline,
There can be No Freedom.

Politicians

Will tell them what they need;

Businessmen

Will sell them what they want;

Artists

Will give them the tools of freedom.

Truth, Art & Love
Are the Three Things in Life
That can always be Given
And sometimes Received,
But never Coerced or Demanded.

He who Carries and Cares For
The Song in his Heart
Will become Incapable
Of harboring Hateful Thoughts
Or committing Violent Acts.

This is the Noblest & Most Urgent Task
Of Music and Music Education
In our Times.

Art & Opportunism
are Fundamentally Incompatible

Music is like Love:
She can be invited, but never demanded;
And she can only be received
When we give everything of ourselves,
Yet expect nothing.

Fundamentals of Aesthetics

Cast a Mellow Light upon the Unusual,
Gently Underscore the Essential,
&
Draw Quiet Attention to the Subtle;

But NEVER, NEVER
Accentuate the OBVIOUS !

Music,
The Queen of the Arts,
Can neither be written down,
Nor described in words,
Nor even perceived
By the physical ear:

She can only be Lived
In the Eternal Fire
Of the Human Heart.

Birth & Death
Are Givens;

Everything else
Can be Influenced.