

I am captivated by Dr. Joseph Polisi's statement that young artists need to do more than just get "the notes right or the words right or the steps right. They have to be missionaries for the arts." Given our level of experience and our focus on our professional career, we should keep our responsibilities as missionaries in mind. Since my major is music, I would like to talk about the meaning of Dr Polisi's statement to musicians as artists. First, I would like to discuss musicians' mission in relation to the public, and second, I would like to discuss our mission in relation to the artistic community.

Over the last two centuries different kinds of music have emerged and we can obviously see that classical music became restricted to a limited audience, while other music like pop and rock increased in popularity. A huge number of people, particularly youth, have been drawn towards pop music because they have shared similarities with pop musicians in terms of their appearance and of course related to the music itself. But in the last few decades classical music has received more attention from the public, the government, and people who are not musicians and don't even have a background in classical music. At different classical events, concerts, and competitions, people sometimes tell me that that they are the fan of a pianist for unexpected musical reasons. In my opinion the reason for the reinvigoration of classical music is musicians. In recent decades young talented musical artists have changed peoples' minds about classical music by exhibiting different interpretations of various pieces with different themes; some of these interpretations are very modern. I believe that as young musical artists our biggest mission is to ensure that this trend continues to grow. Young musicians must recognize this responsibility and introduce their musical art to members of the public in order to involve them in the artistic experience. The reason that an art is popular and appreciated is

the artist. That is, the artist lets people share her or his feelings, experience, interpretation and artistic expression. In the last few years there have been some fascinating classical musicians who have done this and many of the fans who attend their concerts are not musicians. The young musicians of today need to aspire to be artists of that kind.

Our second mission as talented musical artists is our responsibility to the artistic community. I admire Martha Argerich very much not because she is a wonderful pianist – throughout history there have been innumerable outstanding pianists – but because of her commitment to her art. To me, it looks like her mission is bigger than herself. She cares about young talented musicians, interacting with them closing by collaborating with them in ensembles. She has also promoted younger pianists through her annual festival and her frequent appearances as a judge at important competitions. Many pianists at this level are self-centered and only concentrate on their own music. Martha, however, is a role model to talented musicians both young and experienced in serving as an example of our responsibility to the larger artistic community.