As a performing musician you know what success feels like when you have performed a difficult composition and it is received with a standing ovation; or at least a standing ovation from your parents. Or when your ensemble receives a superior rating at Festival, or your band wins your state marching band competition.

Let’s take those feelings of success a step further up the ladder and come to the realization that the success you achieve in life is determined by your ability to find your true calling in life. I believe the happiest people are those who have figured out who they are, and have dedicated their lives to doing something they enjoy.

There are several things you can do to help find your true calling. Pondering these ideas will help you understand if you are on the correct path or not.

First question you must ask yourself is “What Am I Good At?”

We all have different skills that help us to become successful at one thing or another. When you are looking for your true calling in life, you must sit down and determine what those skills are. You need to know what you are good at, as it will help you to look in the right direction. Notice when people compliment you on different tasks that you do well. When you receive these compliments, it is easy to feel surprised as it comes naturally to you. Pay attention to the things that people say about you, as it is a clear message of your skills and will help you know which path you should consider pursuing.

Second, Learning from Past Success

To help you find your true calling, you must look back over your life and find out what you did that brought you success. What have you done that has brought you some great rewards, and personal satisfaction? Analyzing your past can bring you great rewards in the future, as it helps you learn from your mistakes and successes so you can find your true career path in life.

Third, Changing for The Future

As you look back upon your past, you need to understand what you can change for the future. Remember your past does not determine your future; however, you can learn from it. So, here are some questions you should be asking yourself:

What did you do correctly that influenced your successes?

What did you do that caused you to fail?

Are there relationships that you would avoid if you had the chance to remove them from your past?
So here is a truth: while you cannot change your past, you can learn from it and use what you have learned as you move toward the future.

**Here are some final thoughts:**

Finding your true calling in life requires you to come to a point where you know who you are, and what you want to make of yourself. The success in life is to find out what you want to do and to apply yourself to your full potential.

Successful people do not feel that they are working. They love what they do, and they find their career is their play. Do you love what you’re doing as a performing musician? Could this be a part of your life’s calling? Or are you good with math and music and think you’d be a great engineer? Have you thought of combining the two disciplines into one career? If you have strong leadership qualities and you also love music, but you do not consider yourself as a great performer, then your life’s calling may be combining these two disciples to find you could be a great CEO of a music publishing company. In fact, there are hundreds of careers in music. Let me encourage you to go to the website ScholarshipAuditions.com, click on the “Library” section, and then find “Careers in Music.” Explore this section fully. If you see something that makes your heart leap with excitement, and you can get a vision for a future doing this job, then maybe this is your calling in life.

Now follow this exercise that I did in high school. Write down your age and the year, starting with this year, and do it for the next twelve years. Then think what you must do starting this very year to fulfill your life’s calling and possible career path. If college is a part of this equation, list the college major that is required, and if there is certification required. Then find five colleges that are known for this major. Now, of course, you are writing this all down. Then decide where you are going to live to establish yourself in this career. For example, if you want to be a Broadway Performer, then logically you are going to live in New York City, since that is the location of Broadway. Or if you want to be in the recording industry, note that the best cities for this career are Los Angeles, New York City, and Nashville. Remember to complete this exercise for all twelve years. Then put it away and every Monday morning for the next six weeks take it out and read it fully. If it excites you as much, and maybe even more so, as the first time you wrote it down then maybe, just maybe this is your life’s calling.

Here is my final thought on finding your life’s calling: If you are truly living out your life’s calling then you will bring joy to yourself and others.
Finding Your Calling

What are the top five things that bring joy in your life?

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

What are the top five things that you do that bring joy in other people’s lives?

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Describe what you believe your life’s calling is: ________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

List five things you must do this school year to bring you closer to your life’s calling?

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

List three college majors that will help you achieve your life’s calling:

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________
List five colleges/universities/conservatories that have the exact major you are seeking:

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

List three towns/cities that are a natural fit for your life’s calling:

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________