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## Getting Past the Frustration and Into Why We Play Music

I've often heard students tell me that they dislike certain pieces, or even playing their instrument in general, when they get to a particularly difficult spot in their learning process. They may be working on a piece they previously loved or they may have always enjoyed playing music before, but once the real work starts it can be difficult to maintain the enjoyment.

How do we continue to enjoy what we do when things get difficult? When practicing a piece becomes frustrating, I like to take a step back and listen to the piece, or play something else I always enjoy playing. If I can reconnect with what made me enjoy that piece, or just playing my instrument in general, it will help me rediscover the enjoyment of what I'm working on.

Most students enjoy their music until they discover they actually have to put in some patient work with it; the idea is to remember why we play music at all. We all get a chance to create beautiful sounds and make music that can be shared and enjoyed by more than just ourselves. Next time you get frustrated with your practice, take a moment to make something musical on your own time or listen to a piece that keeps you enjoying music. Always remember how great it is that you have a chance to create music on your own!

Michelle Sirois Piano Instructor







Kelsey is joining SAMA's
administrative staff. As
she's started her
professional career,
Kelsey has
developed a strong
interest in business
and the many
aspects involved,
specifically creating a
positive experience for
all those involved.





