

2018 THEME CLASS

MUSIC

Next year's *assignment* is about learning how to *feel*. It is *also* about learning how to become *emotionally* connected with your *main* subject. Music and photography have *always* had a number of things in common. Both can evoke *feelings* and *emotional* responses from the *listener* and the *viewer*. Just as a really *great* song can take *us* back to a wonderful *time* and *place* in our lives, a really *great* photograph can *also* have the *same* effects on us.

Many of the *greatest* photographers in history were *also* musicians. Ansel Adams, who was also a *concert* pianist, is probably one of the most *famous* photographers ever.

Music has *always* played a very *important* role in *our* lives. Think back to the last time that *you* were at home *editing* your own photographs. I would venture to guess that the large *majority* of *you* were *listening* to some of your favorite *songs* and *music* while *you* were *editing* your photographs.

To help with *your* assignment, I have some things that I want *you* to try. First, focus on *just* one class. Second, pick out some of *your* favorite *music* and *listen* to it while *you* are out *taking* photos. Try listening to *several* different *types* of music to see how *they* can affect *your* mood and *your* photos. Third, go by yourself. Again, the goal is for *you* to learn how to *feel* and become *emotionally* connected to your *main* subject. "Great photography is about *depth of feeling*, not depth of field." – Peter Adams

The *main* subject of *your* photograph in the *theme class* next year must be *music* related in some shape, form, or fashion. Because *you* will have had an *entire year* to perfect *your* skills, the photos in the *theme class* will be *judged* to a much *higher* standard.



Keep in mind that *you* will still need to *focus* on *creating* an image that has a *great* composition and a *clearly* defined *main* subject. If the judges *cannot* figure out what *your* main subject is, it is 'Out of the Show'.

Your photographs should also *excite* and *inspire* the other *photographers* and *visitors* at next year's Iowa State Fair. More importantly, *your* images must also *excite* and *inspire* next year's *three* judges. You have to make *them* wish that *they* were the *photographer*. If *you* do this, I can *guarantee* that *your* photographs will be on *display* next year.

Again, always remember to *focus* on the *art* of photography. At the Iowa State Fair, we are looking for *photographs* NOT *snapshots*. A *photograph* is so much *harder* to create than a *snapshot*. It takes *time*, *thought*, *creativity*, and *planning* to create. A really *great* *photograph* is actually *created* in the *mind* of the photographer *well* before the shutter is ever released. At the end of the day, *your* *goal* and/or *mission* is to, "Show us the world as we have never seen it before!"

Charley W. Starnes, Superintendent
Iowa State Fair Photography Salon

NOTE: Entry Forms will be online at www.iowastatefair.org/premiumbooks by April 1, 2018.

