

CONFIDENCE, ARROGANCE and HUMILITY

A Pianist's Journey

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confidence

1. a belief that you can do something well
2. a belief that you can succeed at something
3. self-assurance arising from one's appreciation of one's own abilities or qualities
4. feeling certain that something will happen
5. feeling certain about the truth of something

Synonyms

trust, belief, faith, conviction, assurance, self-assurance, firm trust

Antonyms

insecurity, self-distrust, self-doubt

arrogance

1. an insulting way of thinking or behaving that comes from believing that you are better, smarter, or more important than other people
2. an attitude of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or in presumptuous claims or assumptions
3. overbearing pride evidenced by a superior manner toward inferiors

Synonyms

haughtiness, loftiness, self-importance , superiority, high and mighty, cavalier

Antonyms

Humility, modesty , lowly

humility

1. freedom from pride or arrogance
2. the quality or state of being humble
3. the quality or state of not thinking you are better than other people
4. absence of vanity or excessive pride

Synonyms

down-to-earthness, humbleness, lowliness, meekness, modesty, submissiveness

Antonyms

arrogance, conceit, egoism, egotism, loftiness, pompousness, pride, superiority

<https://www.dictionary.com>

<https://merriam-webster.com>

<https://www.yourdictionary.com>

QUOTES about CONFIDENCE, ARROGANCE, and HUMILITY

Confidence:

1. "Confidence is not, 'They will like me'. Confidence instead is, 'I'll be fine if they don't.'" Christina Grimmie
2. "Every time I became too confident, life reminded me I should not." Maxime Lagacé
3. "Start with the end in mind." Stephen Covey
4. "We are what we believe we are". C.S. Lewis
5. "Courage is the birthplace of confidence." Debbie Millman
6. "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Eleanor Roosevelt
7. "Confidence comes from hours and days and weeks and years of constant work and dedication." Robert Staubach
8. "Confidence comes from discipline and training." Robert Kiyosaki
9. "Have confidence that if you have done a little thing well, you can do a bigger thing well too." David Storey
10. "For me, so far, confidence has been a journey, not a destination." Jessica Williams
11. "It is best to act with confidence, no matter how little right you have to it." Lillian Helman
12. "Confidence is key. Sometimes, you need to look like you're confident even when you're not." Vanessa Hudgens

Arrogance:

1. "Arrogance is loud, confidence is quiet." James Pierce
2. "An individual's arrogance is always in proportion to his lack of self-assurance." Otto Weininger
3. "Arrogant people habitually overestimate their own abilities and underestimate everyone else's." David Baldacci
4. "The fragile line between confidence and arrogance is humility." Norman E. Bowie & Meg Schneider
5. "Arrogance is an unhealthy ego in need of repair." Thomas Faranda
6. "Arrogance boasts of itself. Humility does not. Arrogance provides a false sense of identity for its wearer. True humility positively contributes to one's true identity. Arrogance automatically assumes a bogus sense of superior status. Humility helps to put into proper perspective our place and purpose in this world." Jim Valenti

7. "At first glance, and from the outside at least, confidence and arrogance seem to be similar. Self-assurance, belief in oneself and their abilities are manifestations of both characters, but that is where the similarities end! Self-confidence evokes the same in others, it is infectious, it spreads and inspires, turning inspiration into great ideas and opportunities. The Confident has an abundance mentality and encourages others by helping them. Arrogance is the opposite, it is posturing, it is fake, it is used to make the Arrogant feel better about themselves by making someone else feel inferior, the smaller they make people feel the bigger they feel. Arrogance is the destroyer of confidence in others." Andrew Mack

Humility:

1. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." C. S. Lewis
2. "Never look down on anybody unless you're helping them up." Jesse Jackson
3. "A humble person is not one who thinks little of himself, hangs his head and says, "I'm nothing." Rather, he is one who depends wholly on the Lord for everything, in every circumstance." David Wilkerson
4. "Being humble means recognizing that we are not on earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others." Gordon B. Hinckley
5. "Pride is concerned with who is right. Humility is concerned with what is right." Ezra Taft Benson
6. "Humility is royalty without a crown." Spencer W. Kimball
7. "There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self." Ernest Hemingway

Motivational Quotes:

1. "Don't aspire to make a living, aspire to make a difference." Denzel Washington
2. "In order to change your life, you must change your thoughts." Denzel Washington
3. "Nothing in life is worthwhile unless you take risks. Fall forward. Every failed experiment is one step closer to success." Denzel Washington
4. "A creative artist works on his next composition because he was not satisfied with his previous one." Dmitri Shostakovich
5. "This has remained with me: how music in its wisdom can govern the way a person lives; how its uncompromising standards can make a person discriminating in everything he does. Just as a musician upholds and reveres the principles of his art, he should steer a course in life that is free of dishonesty, selfishness, and ignorance. He can draw strength from that absolute beauty he finds in music—a beauty of which he is himself a part. And as he probes into those regions deep within himself where everything is knowable, he becomes that ideal performer—a contributor not only of artistic values, but of human values as well." Seymour Bernstein (*With Your Own Two Hands*, Schirmer)
6. "Music is not a cure for the disease, but it is maybe a cure for our hearts." Aldo Cichinni

Karl Paulnack, previously the Director of the Music Division at Boston Conservatory stated the following in a welcome address to the parents of an incoming Freshman class at BC (and in an address to the students as well):

“If we were a medical school, and you were here as a med student practicing appendectomies, you’d take your work very seriously because you would imagine that some night at two AM someone is going to waltz into your emergency room and you’re going to have to save their life.

“Well, my friends, someday at 8 PM someone is going to walk into your concert hall and bring you a mind that is confused, a heart that is overwhelmed, a soul that is weary. Whether they go out whole again will depend partly on how well you do your craft.”

Text of full address:

https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/centers/boisi/pdf/s091/Welcome_address_to_freshman_at_Boston_Conservatory.pdf

Sheri Dew: “This Is a Test. This Is Only a Test.” (BYU Women’s Conference, 1998)

“I couldn't have been more than ten or eleven when [my mother] gave me a stack of classical albums, introducing me to some of the great composers whose works were characterized by dramatic musical passages and what I call the Big Finish. I would lie in front of the stereo for hours, listening to the third movement of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto or his "Prelude in C# Minor," all the while imagining myself at a shiny black concert grand in Carnegie Hall. I pictured my debut there, standing ovation and all. I imagined that I would be humble but brilliant—brilliant enough to move an entire audience, including Mother, to tears. Somewhere in all of my daydreaming, I caught a vision of how it would feel to play so beautifully that others' hearts would soar.

“At that point, Mother no longer had to encourage me to practice. Once I had a vision of the possibilities, the motivation to master the piano came from inside. Am I saying that practicing suddenly was enjoyable? Absolutely not! It was often sheer drudgery. But I found a technique that helped me endure those tedious hours of practice, day in and day out. When I set out to tackle a new piece, I would master and memorize the Big Finish first, all the while visualizing myself in concert, where the audience jumped to its feet at the last chord. Imagining how grand the Big Finish would be kept me going through months of rehearsal on technical passages that didn't provide nearly the same sense of drama but that had to be mastered nonetheless.

“In short, my progress on the piano and my motivation to practice increased dramatically when I caught a vision of my potential.”

https://womensconference.byu.edu/sites/womensconference.ce.byu.edu/files/dew_sheri.pdf

Stewart Gordon stated: “Gina Bachauer was a perfect model of someone who could captivate an audience with an entrance, in that brief span of time before the music began. When Gina Bachauer walked out on stage one felt one was in the presence of royalty. Gina Bachauer moved with the grace and elegance of a ballet dancer. She didn’t walk to the piano. She floated in an unhurried regal flow. One senses already that something very special was about to happen. Her bow was low, measured, deep, and dignified. Her face was solemn, but her eyes always sparkled with incredible vitality. She would seat herself at the instrument, carefully arrange the fullness of the dark gown she almost invariably wore for concerts, raise her head, and begin.” (Stewart Gordon, *Gina Bachauer*, autobiographical notes printed on the record jacket of “Piano Festival, 1971-1985, IPAM Records)

Aldo Cicchini violinist from Milan, stated: “In March, one of my colleagues in the orchestra at La Scala called on every musician in Italy to open their window, or to go to the balcony, to perform at six in the afternoon.

“The first time I took part it was a very cold evening. It was strange, because most of the neighbours didn't know that I played violin! When I started playing, I felt quite shy, but after a couple of minutes, I could see people happy, and smiling. Then, after I had finished the piece, they were clapping, shouting, and demanding more! I carried on playing, and they wanted more and more, so I told them, if you want this, let's do it again tomorrow, at the same time. That was the beginning of everything.

“From then on, I played many famous pieces from different countries, such as music from the movie ‘Cinema Paradiso’, ‘Claire de Lune’ by Debussy, Carlos Gardel's ‘Por Una Cabeza’, and ‘Imagine’ by John Lennon. Although the acoustics are not great on the balcony, the music is bringing people closer together during this time of isolation. Music is not a cure for the disease, but it is maybe a cure for our hearts.”

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061792>