

Ask Mike!

Stressed about an upcoming gig? Work got you singing the blues? Local 47 member Michael I. Goode can help!



In my last column, in March, we talked about the difference between an artist and a musician, and how to find a musical model for your playing. Today, we are going to talk about how we are perceived as musicians, and some ideas on the best way to transport a large instrument.

Q: I am tired of people telling me that all musicians are narcissists, totally into themselves and their ego, and that is why they succeed. I'm very successful in this business and I am not like that; neither are my friends. What do you think?

A: This is one of the biggest lies about musicians that exists today and is absolutely not correct. People who are not musicians do not understand what it takes and what is going on in the head of a creative person. There are many fanciful theories proposed by well-intentioned people that are not accurate. Creative artists have been misunderstood

for years, and even in literature many times we are incorrectly presented.

The reality is that unless a person actually performs music, they won't understand why musicians do what they do. The real truth is that we play music because we love to do it, and there is nothing else that matches the satisfaction of mastering a skill that is so sophisticated and seeing the smiles on the audiences' faces. We are really making both ourselves and them happy at the same time. It's not egocentric at all. It's a labor of love, and fun, too. The problem is we are continually browbeaten by images of the self-involved tortured genius artist, etc., when in fact that is the minority of cases. Many times things are exaggerated by the media in order to sell more magazines, TV, etc. While it is true that there have been and are some exceptions where some musicians have had difficulties adjusting to their fame and notoriety, most professional musicians are pretty sane and are just doing their job like anybody else in any profession. Don't let these stereotypes get to you.

If you haven't written one of the anger letters I have talked about many

times in this column, now is the time to do so about this issue. Begin the letter with, "I am angry that I have been stereotyped as a self-absorbed, narcissistic musician when I'm not." And then keep writing until you get relief. Always use pen and paper, not the computer, and always tear the letters up when done. Keep the letters private but uncensored when you are writing them. If you are writing and something else comes up that makes you angry, keep writing until you get relief. If you feel numb and can't think of anything more to write past the sentence I gave you, then write, "I am angry that I feel numb and have no reference point." You will remember some image, thought or feeling that will give you something to write about and write about that until you get relief.

Writing these letters will balance you so that next time when somebody says something about musicians such as, "Oh, yeah they all are such egomaniacs, they are all making money for doing nothing," it won't get under your skin. We have all been stereotyped by non-musicians at one time or another in our careers. It's healthy to do music, and many studies have also indicated that

playing music at any level makes you smarter!

Q: What is a good car to fit my acoustic bass in?

A: A good car for your upright bass is one that fits your instrument comfortably, has nothing metal sticking out that could damage your instrument, and is at waist level when you open the rear lift-gate so it is easier to slide the bass in and out. A lot of my friends in Chicago that are string bassists use an old station wagon of some kind that has lots of carpeting and padding in the fold-down area. In addition, many of them also use a large bass bag for their instrument for additional travel protection.

Send your questions to: Ask Mike!, Trumpetworks Press, P.O. Box 11574, Marina del Rey, CA 90295 or you can check out my website at www.trumpetworkspress.com and see information on my book, "Stage Fright in Music Performance and Its Relationship to the Unconscious" and my upcoming book, "Your True Self." All names are confidential and will not be published. © 2009

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DO YOUR ESTATE PLANNING?

The consequences of not doing any estate planning are too numerous to list here, but a few issues are worth mentioning. If your minor children become orphans, or if you become incapacitated and cannot take care of yourself, without written instructions from you the Courts will decide who will be in charge. The Court's choice of guardian or conservator may not be yours. Additionally, the Court proceedings and administration of these procedures can be time consuming and cost prohibitive. Perhaps more importantly, the drain on finances as well as the physical and emotional toll these procedures can place on a family is incalculable.

In the event of your death or incapacity, failure to have established even minimal estate planning could mean your hard earned money will be spent for administrative costs, as well as legal and court fees. For instance, if the value of your GROSS assets totals more than \$100,000, you probably need to establish a living trust since estates over this amount must be probated unless they are in trust. This means if you are buying a home for \$500,000, even if you have a large

mortgage, your gross asset is \$500,000. (or whatever the current market value at the time of your death). Probate currently takes at least 9 months to complete, and that is only if everything goes smoothly. Even a moderate estate can cost between \$15,000 to \$20,000 to probate. The same estate if handled through a "living trust" can reduce those costs by as much as 80% and take much less time to complete.

Proper estate planning allows you to make your own decisions about these matters while you can, rather than someone else making decisions when you cannot.

KRAMER LAW GROUP

STEPHEN W. KRAMER
1858 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SUITE 205
LOS ANGELES, CA 90016-4521
PHONE 323-964-7100
WWW.KRAMERLAW.BIZ

Union
Local 47
Working For Working Families

YOU PLAY, WE PAY.*
WE PAY THE TAX SALE!
EVERY PIANO DISCOUNTED!

*Yamaha, Kawai, Steinway, Kimball, Bösendorfer, Schimmel and more. Huge selection includes display models, trade-ins and more! See STORE LISTINGS. *We pay the tax on all pianos and include the cost of April 2009. Sheet music, accessories, rentals excluded.*

30015-1115, 11215-11215, 11315-11315, 11415-11415, 11515-11515, 11615-11615, 11715-11715, 11815-11815, 11915-11915, 12015-12015, 12115-12115, 12215-12215, 12315-12315, 12415-12415, 12515-12515, 12615-12615, 12715-12715, 12815-12815, 12915-12915, 13015-13015, 13115-13115, 13215-13215, 13315-13315, 13415-13415, 13515-13515, 13615-13615, 13715-13715, 13815-13815, 13915-13915, 14015-14015, 14115-14115, 14215-14215, 14315-14315, 14415-14415, 14515-14515, 14615-14615, 14715-14715, 14815-14815, 14915-14915, 15015-15015, 15115-15115, 15215-15215, 15315-15315, 15415-15415, 15515-15515, 15615-15615, 15715-15715, 15815-15815, 15915-15915, 16015-16015, 16115-16115, 16215-16215, 16315-16315, 16415-16415, 16515-16515, 16615-16615, 16715-16715, 16815-16815, 16915-16915, 17015-17015, 17115-17115, 17215-17215, 17315-17315, 17415-17415, 17515-17515, 17615-17615, 17715-17715, 17815-17815, 17915-17915, 18015-18015, 18115-18115, 18215-18215, 18315-18315, 18415-18415, 18515-18515, 18615-18615, 18715-18715, 18815-18815, 18915-18915, 19015-19015, 19115-19115, 19215-19215, 19315-19315, 19415-19415, 19515-19515, 19615-19615, 19715-19715, 19815-19815, 19915-19915, 20015-20015, 20115-20115, 20215-20215, 20315-20315, 20415-20415, 20515-20515, 20615-20615, 20715-20715, 20815-20815, 20915-20915, 21015-21015, 21115-21115, 21215-21215, 21315-21315, 21415-21415, 21515-21515, 21615-21615, 21715-21715, 21815-21815, 21915-21915, 22015-22015, 22115-22115, 22215-22215, 22315-22315, 22415-22415, 22515-22515, 22615-22615, 22715-22715, 22815-22815, 22915-22915, 23015-23015, 23115-23115, 23215-23215, 23315-23315, 23415-23415, 23515-23515, 23615-23615, 23715-23715, 23815-23815, 23915-23915, 24015-24015, 24115-24115, 24215-24215, 24315-24315, 24415-24415, 24515-24515, 24615-24615, 24715-24715, 24815-24815, 24915-24915, 25015-25015, 25115-25115, 25215-25215, 25315-25315, 25415-25415, 25515-25515, 25615-25615, 25715-25715, 25815-25815, 25915-25915, 26015-26015, 26115-26115, 26215-26215, 26315-26315, 26415-26415, 26515-26515, 26615-26615, 26715-26715, 26815-26815, 26915-26915, 27015-27015, 27115-27115, 27215-27215, 27315-27315, 27415-27415, 27515-27515, 27615-27615, 27715-27715, 27815-27815, 27915-27915, 28015-28015, 28115-28115, 28215-28215, 28315-28315, 28415-28415, 28515-28515, 28615-28615, 28715-28715, 28815-28815, 28915-28915, 29015-29015, 29115-29115, 29215-29215, 29315-29315, 29415-29415, 29515-29515, 29615-29615, 29715-29715, 29815-29815, 29915-29915, 30015-30015, 30115-30115, 30215-30215, 30315-30315, 30415-30415, 30515-30515, 30615-30615, 30715-30715, 30815-30815, 30915-30915, 31015-31015, 31115-31115, 31215-31215, 31315-31315, 31415-31415, 31515-31515, 31615-31615, 31715-31715, 31815-31815, 31915-31915, 32015-32015, 32115-32115, 32215-32215, 32315-32315, 32415-32415, 32515-32515, 32615-32615, 32715-32715, 32815-32815, 32915-32915, 33015-33015, 33115-33115, 33215-33215, 33315-33315, 33415-33415, 33515-33515, 33615-33615, 33715-33715, 33815-33815, 33915-33915, 34015-34015, 34115-34115, 34215-34215, 34315-34315, 34415-34415, 34515-34515, 34615-34615, 34715-34715, 34815-34815, 34915-34915, 35015-35015, 35115-35115, 35215-35215, 35315-35315, 35415-35415, 35515-35515, 35615-35615, 35715-35715, 35815-35815, 35915-35915, 36015-36015, 36115-36115, 36215-36215, 36315-36315, 36415-36415, 36515-36515, 36615-36615, 36715-36715, 36815-36815, 36915-36915, 37015-37015, 37115-37115, 37215-37215, 37315-37315, 37415-37415, 37515-37515, 37615-37615, 37715-37715, 37815-37815, 37915-37915, 38015-38015, 38115-38115, 38215-38215, 38315-38315, 38415-38415, 38515-38515, 38615-38615, 38715-38715, 38815-38815, 38915-38915, 39015-39015, 39115-39115, 39215-39215, 39315-39315, 39415-39415, 39515-39515, 39615-39615, 39715-39715, 39815-39815, 39915-39915, 40015-40015, 40115-40115, 40215-40215, 40315-40315, 40415-40415, 40515-40515, 40615-40615, 40715-40715, 40815-40815, 40915-40915, 41015-41015, 41115-41115, 41215-41215, 41315-41315, 41415-41415, 41515-41515, 41615-41615, 41715-41715, 41815-41815, 41915-41915, 42015-42015, 42115-42115, 42215-42215, 42315-42315, 42415-42415, 42515-42515, 42615-42615, 42715-42715, 42815-42815, 42915-42915, 43015-43015, 43115-43115, 43215-43215, 43315-43315, 43415-43415, 43515-43515, 43615-43615, 43715-43715, 43815-43815, 43915-43915, 44015-44015, 44115-44115, 44215-44215, 44315-44315, 44415-44415, 44515-44515, 44615-44615, 44715-44715, 44815-44815, 44915-44915, 45015-45015, 45115-45115, 45215-45215, 45315-45315, 45415-45415, 45515-45515, 45615-45615, 45715-45715, 45815-45815, 45915-45915, 46015-46015, 46115-46115, 46215-46215, 46315-46315, 46415-46415, 46515-46515, 46615-46615, 46715-46715, 46815-46815, 46915-46915, 47015-47015, 47115-47115, 47215-47215, 47315-47315, 47415-47415, 47515-47515, 47615-47615, 47715-47715, 47815-47815, 47915-47915, 48015-48015, 48115-48115, 48215-48215, 48315-48315, 48415-48415, 48515-48515, 48615-48615, 48715-48715, 48815-48815, 48915-48915, 49015-49015, 49115-49115, 49215-49215, 49315-49315, 49415-49415, 49515-49515, 49615-49615, 49715-49715, 49815-49815, 49915-49915, 50015-50015, 50115-50115, 50215-50215, 50315-50315, 50415-50415, 50515-50515, 50615-50615, 50715-50715, 50815-50815, 50915-50915, 51015-51015, 51115-51115, 51215-51215, 51315-51315, 51415-51415, 51515-51515, 51615-51615, 51715-51715, 51815-51815, 51915-51915, 52015-52015, 52115-52115, 52215-52215, 52315-52315, 52415-52415, 52515-52515, 52615-52615, 52715-52715, 52815-52815, 52915-52915, 53015-53015, 53115-53115, 53215-53215, 53315-53315, 53415-53415, 53515-53515, 53615-53615, 53715-53715, 53815-53815, 53915-53915, 54015-54015, 54115-54115, 54215-54215, 54315-54315, 54415-54415, 54515-54515, 54615-54615, 54715-54715, 54815-54815, 54915-54915, 55015-55015, 55115-55115, 55215-55215, 55315-55315, 55415-55415, 55515-55515, 55615-55615, 55715-55715, 55815-55815, 55915-55915, 56015-56015, 56115-56115, 56215-56215, 56315-56315, 56415-56415, 56515-56515, 56615-56615, 56715-56715, 56815-56815, 56915-56915, 57015-57015, 57115-57115, 57215-57215, 57315-57315, 57415-57415, 57515-57515, 57615-57615, 57715-57715, 57815-57815, 57915-57915, 58015-58015, 58115-58115, 58215-58215, 58315-58315, 58415-58415, 58515-58515, 58615-58615, 58715-58715, 58815-58815, 58915-58915, 59015-59015, 59115-59115, 59215-59215, 59315-59315, 59415-59415, 59515-59515, 59615-59615, 59715-59715, 59815-59815, 59915-59915, 60015-60015, 60115-60115, 60215-60215, 60315-60315, 60415-60415, 60515-60515, 60615-60615, 60715-60715, 60815-60815, 60915-60915, 61015-61015, 61115-61115, 61215-61215, 61315-61315, 61415-61415, 61515-61515, 61615-61615, 61715-61715, 61815-61815, 61915-61915, 62015-62015, 62115-62115, 62215-62215, 62315-62315, 62415-62415, 62515-62515, 62615-62615, 62715-62715, 62815-62815, 62915-62915, 63015-63015, 63115-63115, 63215-63215, 63315-63315, 63415-63415, 63515-63515, 63615-63615, 63715-63715, 63815-63815, 63915-63915, 64015-64015, 64115-64115, 64215-64215, 64315-64315, 64415-64415, 64515-64515, 64615-64615, 64715-64715, 64815-64815, 64915-64915, 65015-65015, 65115-65115, 65215-65215, 65315-65315, 65415-65415, 65515-65515, 65615-65615, 65715-65715, 65815-65815, 65915-65915, 66015-66015, 66115-66115, 66215-66215, 66315-66315, 66415-66415, 66515-66515, 66615-66615, 66715-66715, 66815-66815, 66915-66915, 67015-67015, 67115-67115, 67215-67215, 67315-67315, 67415-67415, 67515-67515, 67615-67615, 67715-67715, 67815-67815, 67915-67915, 68015-68015, 68115-68115, 68215-68215, 68315-68315, 68415-68415, 68515-68515, 68615-68615, 68715-68715, 68815-68815, 68915-68915, 69015-69015, 69115-69115, 69215-69215, 69315-69315, 69415-69415, 69515-69515, 69615-69615, 69715-69715, 69815-69815, 69915-69915, 70015-70015, 70115-70115, 70215-70215, 70315-70315, 70415-70415, 70515-70515, 70615-70615, 70715-70715, 70815-70815, 70915-70915, 71015-71015, 71115-71115, 71215-71215, 71315-71315, 71415-71415, 71515-71515, 71615-71615, 71715-71715, 71815-71815, 71915-71915, 72015-72015, 72115-72115, 72215-72215, 72315-72315, 72415-72415, 72515-72515, 72615-72615, 72715-72715, 72815-72815, 72915-72915, 73015-73015, 73115-73115, 73215-73215, 73315-73315, 73415-73415, 73515-73515, 73615-73615, 73715-73715, 73815-73815, 73915-73915, 74015-74015, 74115-74115, 74215-74215, 74315-74315, 74415-74415, 74515-74515, 74615-74615, 74715-74715, 74815-74815, 74915-74915, 75015-75015, 75115-75115, 75215-75215, 75315-75315, 75415-75415, 75515-75515, 75615-75615, 75715-75715, 75815-75815, 75915-75915, 76015-76015, 76115-76115, 76215-76215, 76315-76315, 76415-76415, 76515-76515, 76615-76615, 76715-76715, 76815-76815, 76915-76915, 77015-77015, 77115-77115, 77215-77215, 77315-77315, 77415-77415, 77515-77515, 77615-77615, 77715-77715, 77815-77815, 77915-77915, 78015-78015, 78115-78115, 78215-78215, 78315-78315, 78415-78415, 78515-78515, 78615-78615, 78715-78715, 78815-78815, 78915-78915, 79015-79015, 79115-79115, 79215-79215, 79315-79315, 79415-79415, 79515-79515, 79615-79615, 79715-79715, 79815-79815, 79915-79915, 80015-80015, 80115-80115, 80215-80215, 80315-80315, 80415-80415, 80515-80515, 80615-80615, 80715-80715, 80815-80815, 80915-80915, 81015-81015, 81115-81115, 81215-81215, 81315-81315, 81415-81415, 81515-81515, 81615-81615, 81715-81715, 81815-81815, 81915-81915, 82015-82015, 82115-82115, 82215-82215, 82315-82315, 82415-82415, 82515-82515, 82615-82615, 82715-82715, 82815-82815, 82915-82915, 83015-83015, 83115-83115, 83215-83215, 83315-83315, 83415-83415, 83515-83515, 83615-83615, 83715-83715, 83815-83815, 83915-83915, 84015-84015, 84115-84115, 84215-84215, 84315-84315, 84415-84415, 84515-84515, 84615-84615, 84715-84715, 84815-84815, 84915-84915, 85015-85015, 85115-85115, 85215-85215, 85315-85315, 85415-85415, 85515-85515, 85615-85615, 85715-85715, 85815-85815, 85915-85915, 86015-86015, 86115-86115, 86215-86215, 86315-86315, 8