



Release the Butterfly

By Robert Murray Diefendorf



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Release the Butterfly is a guide to the soul of music or any learning pursuit, at the same time philosophical and practical, an Art of War for learning and communication. Bob Diefendorf uses hilarious and moving examples from his life as a pianist and teacher to tell an exhilarating story of change and growth. Written simply, but with startling originality, it is destined to become a classic statement on how to never give up on any student, including yourself.

The author gives examples in his own life and studio and ties them in with Eastern philosophy, Native shamanism, Christian spirituality, a solid European musical background and his own thinking to come up with a unique educational approach.

Written simply and clearly, it has forty-four chapters, averaging about four pages each. The chapters are succinct and build to their points quickly. The book can be read at a stretch, for maximum impact, or dipped into, for delightful and useful thoughts on how to remove barriers in communication and learning.

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Editorial Review

Review

"All education is waiting for a book like this...it is like a journey into a way of knowing." -- *Sonia Mehta, PhD., Global Studies in Education*

"Bob Diefendorf has written a deep, philosophical, and poetic book outlining... how to teach... his message extends to life itself." -- *Seymour Bernstein, Pianist, Pedagogue and Author of "With Your Own Two Hands" and "Monsters and Angels-Surviving a Career in Music"*

"This is a groundbreaking book in piano, music, and life pedagogy! It goes way beyond Zen..." -- *Bob Spears, of "Heartland Reviews"*

About the Author

Bob Diefendorf, who teaches piano at Westminster Conservatory, was the former co-coordinator of their gifted program, and is the founder and president of Small Miracles Program, a nonprofit foundation that has provided free music lessons and pianos to children of need in NJ for eight years. He attended the Phillips Exeter Academy on scholarship, was in the honors theory program and tutored German at Boston University, and received a 4.0 in Schenkerian analysis at Westminster Choir College, so he is familiar with formal academia. Yet he sees much that is lacking in conventional school settings, particularly in the area of empowering students and inviting them to participate in their own educational process.

This is the departure point for the book. That students can and will succeed, if they are given the right plants on which to alight and are allowed to grow wings

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Karla Walker:

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