

## **MUSIC-AT-FIRST-SIGHT puts you right in the middle of the orchestra. - WHY ?**

This from the New York Times 20 June 2004 by Daniel Wakin.

“It was the ultimate in surround-sound, and not surprisingly, because I was sitting smack in the middle of the stage at Avery Fisher Hall, an amateur clarinetist embedded in the clarinet section of the New York Philharmonic.”

Mr. Wakin went on to relate how Stanley Drucker (Principal Clarinet) went over the Tchaikovsky part and coached and marked where he should play, and when NOT to play. Nothing could equal this live experience. I've been thrilled almost every time I played in an orchestra, band, jazz combo, or classical chamber group, or the many accompaniments I provided to soloists and choral groups.

Now my goal as a teacher is to make it easy for the beginner ( who needs encouragement the most) to experience this exalted sense of self, to experience the thrill right from the beginning, and with that confidence approach the technical demands as one of many aspects of mastering the art of communicating ones special soul thru this exquisite medium - without words, narratives, value judgements, ...none of that technical gibberish that tries to pass for musical understanding. **Earphones and todays equipment easily puts the listener in the middle of the performance.**

“Many people have complained about the acoustics in Avery Fisher Hall, but from where I sat, (.\*.in the middle of the orchestra) they sounded great. Thomas Stacy, the English horn player, likened the difference between sitting in the audience and sitting in the orchestra to the difference between drinking instant coffee and sipping espresso. To me, it was the difference between gazing at the seashore and floating on an ocean of sound.” (Daniel Wakin- NY Times) \*- my added note.

Music-At-First-Sight gives you a clear, playable, evolving role in each performance WHILE maintaining and using your method for technique. **This is how Music-At-First-Sight evolved.**

## **And This is How it Works:**

1. We hear (normally) through two sources:
  - a. The outside sounds through our ears-eardrum-inner ear.
  - b. Our own voices through bone conduction. Count 1 to 10 aloud. When you get to 5 plug your ears and notice how little difference there is. Your first recording of your voice sounded strange- because you were hearing it for the first time through your ears and NOT through normal bone (skull) conduction.
  
2. By balancing the volume of recorded music in a good set of earphones with the sound you play on your instrument- and hear through contact with your skull bone (jawbone on chin rest, jaw on mouthpiece, scroll of bass or cello against side of your head), you can create a very good illusion of playing right in the middle of the group, no matter how large or small. No need to bruise your eardrums, as Mr. Wakin suggests: “A GLEAMING, sheer-cut wall of brass hit me from behind. Pounding timpani and crashing cymbals rattled my cartilage.

A wave of woodwinds and strings swept me along. For a time, the monumental thrust and sharp rhythmic snap of the march in the third movement of Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony made me feel as though the music were playing my instrument instead of vice versa”

## **KEEP YOUR VOLUME CONTROL FLEXIBLY ADJUSTED**

### **HOW TO DO THIS - THE EQUIPMENT**

1. A good tape player- with remote control pad - and a memory rewind.

This allows you to stop the recording at any point , isolate a certain segment and repeat it as many times as you wish- without changing your instrument playing position. Any source will work, but the above is, at this writing, the most convenient and easily available.

**2. A clip board with some music manuscript (You have a selection of different blank music manuscript files to print from your Folder: “Blank Music MS”) - so little fleeting ideas can be noted down. Develop this habit from the beginning. Save your ideas.**

**3. The “A”parts (Cue+Your Instrument) need frequent page turns. A wide shelf extension rigged up to your music stand would help.**

**The “B” parts ( “Yours” alone) can usually fit on one setting.**