“My Favorite Professor, Dr. Robert Winter”

In-Sung Kim (Ines)

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“*I study a new piece every morning on my piano. Although I already know thousands of pieces.*” The quote was said by a musicologist, Robert Winter. I went to University of California, Los Angeles for my doctoral degree in music from September 2000 until June 2004. During that time, I’ve met Dr. Robert Winter who is a world’s well-known musicologist, a pianist, and a multi-media artist. I will discuss about his effective teaching methods and compare them with Dr. Harmon’s.

One of characteristics of adult learners is that adult students need to be shown respect. During Dr. Winter’s “Performance Practices” class, he was shown respect to us as equals in experiences and knowledge. He especially encouraged the international students including myself to speak out our ideas and opinions, because he knew that we were very intimidated by surroundings and English language.

Second aspect of Dr. Winter’s effective teaching was the “modern classroom” atmosphere. As he is known as a multi-media artist, he suggested to us computer for all the assignments and the researches. After the quarter, we became familiar with using modern technology for our studies.

Dr. Winter was an enabler; an enabler is one of three teacher types. An enabler knows the subject matter, methodology, and how students are feeling. It also refers to a teacher who employs a variety of techniques and tries to let students to involve. He used many visual, auditory, and manipulative aids such as DVDs, CDs, and musical instruments we performed. He was happy to be a counselor, a guidance or even a friend to us. I deeply appreciated his considerations because I value relationships between a teacher and students as much as productions and accomplishments.

Dr. Harmon who taught “Notation and Performance Direction” at UCLA was an explainer. He just explained musical terms and musicians’ lexis. We did not have chance to work in pairs nor in team-works. We were just listening to what Dr. Harmon was explaining about. Dr. Harmon also belonged to a teacher of the traditional classroom type.

As an enabler, Dr. Winter helped us to be autonomous learners through the individual and the team-work studies. He made me to believe that working alone can be very productive as much as working in a group. He gave us several assignments which we had to study individually. We were encouraged to research the subjects, to create our own ideas, and to give a few presentations. I was very engaged to the subjects and studied them in depth throughout the quarter. He also gave us the assignments which required team-works researching some specific composers and their pieces.

Since I have no experience teaching English, it will be very difficult to prepare and to teach classes. However, I will try my best to keep my class interesting and helpful. I will also be aware of the various types of learners: visual, auditory, and tactile-kinesthetic. Using mediums, DVDs, wall-charts, CDs, and fun activities would help the students. Finally, I will refrain from having biased opinions about my students and will try to elicit from my students if they have different levels of English.