

Interview with Hedda Szamosi

Freedom is *not* arbitrariness, randomness, lack of discipline. Without a certain order, a certain *form*, you can't be truly free. They are so closely connected, form, order, freedom...

Form is given through the music, on the one hand, and through the natural functioning of the body on the other... The freer you are, the better you are able to work with your body as an instrument, the more you can risk. Of course you can't *start* there – people always do too much at first. It takes a long time before you understand what it is to be free within limits.

Form should not be confused with something rigid. Give up everything rigid! What is rigid is not alive. Either you are rigid or you are alive. You can't be both at the same time!

The things about my father that I believe most influenced me were (not in order of importance, but as they occur to me): his standards, his search for the truth, his faith in humanity, his efforts on behalf of young people, his almost unerring sense for what was genuine and authentic, his pedagogic ideas and attitude, the intelligence of his methods, his capacity for enthusiasm, his uncompromising attitude and dedication, and, not least, his musical ideals. He had an extraordinarily broad perspective, and he continued learning until the day he died. He never became complacent, but tried constantly to improve his teaching, to make it more effective.

First duty of a teacher: Calm.

The teacher must have the feeling from the beginning, that he *trusts* the student to succeed – each within the scope of the possibilities given to him by nature. It's not only a trust in oneself, and in the work, but also trust in the student. This gives the student the courage to venture out into the unknown.

Control should never apply to what I should do, but always to what I should *not* do. That is essential. I should as far as possible do *nothing* that hinders my automatic functioning. I have to observe myself, I have to be able to perceive myself, but not *interfere* in the process.

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