

## Dan McKenna Portfolio OPCC Workshop

### Musicians at Work

#### Artist's Statement

As a photographer I have often focused my attention on other artists. Painters, sculptors, artisans, actors and musicians to name a few. The latter two have most often been the focus for this segment of my work, primarily because they practice their art in a setting that engages an audience.

For me music besides photography has been a lifelong interest. However, my abilities as a musician were limited to childhood classes, that to say the least did not progress very far. Nevertheless, I discovered that I could engage in the musicians' performance by capturing them on film and now digitally. By doing so, I felt more engaged with the performance and solidified my memories for each performance. Chronicling a musician at work provides the viewer with some understanding of the impacts they may have upon the audience.

For the purpose of this Portfolio, I have chosen musicians in various settings and fame. Some of the musicians included in these images have achieved much notoriety, while others have just begun to practice their art or use music to satisfy the needs of their creative soul.

I have decided to present the images in black and white to not distract the viewer from the scene in which they were captured. Professional musicians performing on a set or stage can often be overwhelmed by the setting in an image, while street musicians are more easily depicted and become the simple focus of the image. By presenting these images in black and white the subject is more easily focused for the viewer wherever they were performing.

I have also chosen a variety of musicians in order to allow the viewer to judge for themselves how their art may or may not have affected them. In all cases, I have attempted to keep my presence while capturing the image to a minimum to not affect the musician and in turn lessen the intensity of the musicians' performance.

I truly hope that these images convey the need for all to practice some form of creative endeavor no matter how great or significant it is received. Because I believe engaging in creativity is an essential component of the human experience.

“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent”

Victor Hugo