

Regarding Accordion Competitions:

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What are your thoughts regarding competitions?



Competitions are good, as they give students the incentive to practice. It shouldn't be about putting all the emphasis on winning or losing, but by going into a competition they learn music! They have to learn their one, two or three pieces. It provides a helpful purpose to the lessons... to play their music and to play it well.

There are some students who have a very difficult time performing, but you should never underplay that student, as no matter how poor they may do in the competition in regards to their placing, they have set a goal for themselves. Maybe they just learned the piece, maybe they just memorized it or maybe they didn't, but the competition goal definitely served a purpose, and that is what I think is so important... that ultimately it did serve a purpose!



What musical advice do you have for aspiring accordionists?



Listen to your teacher, and very important - practice! You have to have goals. Also, what happens today (different from when I studied) is that no one has a chance to play any place. I used to play at all these Clubs and Organizations, and that doesn't happen so much anymore I feel. I don't get calls at the studio like I used to asking for performers. It does happen of course, but not like it used to. Now if they get anyone, they get a group of entertainers rather than a student soloist.

Maybe the teachers could help do more to promote it. We used to play any place we could. It was all part of the teaching and learning process. Kids going out to play publicly is probably the best lesson they could ever learn! It prepares them and builds self-confidence. Teachers need to support students by attending their public performances, too.