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Eric Genuis Contemporary Classical

“If you want to know the mentality of a nation, let me hear their music (Confucius).”

“If you want to govern a nation, govern their music (Plato).”

These quotes were revealed to an audience of approximately 120 inmates of CSP-LAC on June 24, 2019, by Mr. Eric Genuis. Mr. Genuis, a former physics instructor now turned professional pianist and composer arrived at CSP-Lac Facility-A to provide the inmate population with an opportunity to hear music other than the contemporary genre of hip-hop. Genuis' performance uses a Roland EP-80 Keyboard, and he is accompanied by two other musicians – Valerie, an exceptional violinist and April, a superb vocalist. Genuis expressed his intent to contribute to the extensive library of music and instant downloading by instilling hope, joy and encouragement to listeners, through his classical music performances. He began this journey, of musical performances, over 30 years ago. Mr. Genuis performs in many system impacted environments throughout the world and continues to have success evoking the hidden, but appreciative, empathy and compassion of listeners. After the performance of each piece, Genuis takes time to answer questions from the audience. When asked of whom he enjoys listening? Eric Genuis' expresses his greater pleasure comes from Rhamanoff. However, he now prefers staying focused, listening and writing his own compositions. He did mention he would enjoy having a “rapper” perform with him and his music, and encourages anyone with the talent to present their ideas to him. However, this type of collaboration is not at the top of Mr. Genuis' desires at this moment in time. Mr. Genuis' focus is the classical pieces such as those he presented at this recital.

Mr. Genuis performed four original contemporary classical pieces. The first featured Genuis and Valerie, the violinist. The name escapes memory. However, the effect is permanent. The piece evoked much empathy from the audience. It appeared many listeners were drawn to tears, because of the empathetic emotional evocations of the music. The second, entitled “Promise” featured Genuis, this time accompanied by the violinist Valerie, and the vocalist April. “Promise” was inspired by the personal events of Genuis' life involving his children's demise. Genuis' third composition, entitled “Redemption” or “The Dance of Two Themes”, highlights two melodic themes that intertwine as the violinist and the vocalist interact, with the keyboard as the fulcrum. In this composition we hear practically operatic sounds from April, and complex violins arpeggios from Valerie, all accompanied by Genuis on piano. The fourth composition, entitled “Here I Am” was inspired by his adopted daughter's exhibition of empathy for a listener moved to tears at a previous performance of Genuis'. While the performers walked past the crying listener, the daughter stopped and climbed upon the lap of the tearful listener, embraced and cried with her – expressing empathy not shown by the adults. Thus Genuis was moved to generate the composition “Here I Am”.

At the conclusion of Eric Genuis' performance, he left us a piece of his wisdom to accompany the exposure of his classical expressions:

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“There are many people in the free world that are more imprisoned than you inmates. Those persons’ prisons are their minds (Genuis, June 24, 2019).”

Indeed, upon reflection, it is the compassion of many of us today that helps us to overcome the challenges in our lives and continue to progress along the stream of life. We sincerely appreciate the invitation of Mr. Genuis to partake and enjoy his original compositions prior to their release. We look forward to hearing more of his compositions in the future, and thank him for coming to CSP-LAC to perform for us.