

## People Stories



There are so many musician stories that I tell my students, it was difficult to choose the most appropriate ones. Some of the stories I finally picked have no point to them—they're just fun—but all of them do say something about the people aspect of being an artist. It's not all inspiration and sacred vibes, there's a lot of McDonald's food and "Who's going to drive us to the gig?" involved in pro playing.

It will not escape your notice that many of the stories are about me. They are about pivotal events in my career, all from my California days, when I was considered one of the top players in a large metropolitan area. It was fun going back over some of these memories, I admit, but there is a larger point—using myself as an example, I have always sought to demonstrate how the experience of music is character building. I am not, nor never will be a saint, but I feel somehow, that every time I play music I get a little closer.