

To those souls interested in pursuing a music major in 21st century corporate America: I salute you! As you know, a career in music is immensely demanding and competitive. Hundreds of highly trained cellists compete for every job opening. Pay is relatively low, pressure high.

Playing the cello well requires strength, concentration, imagination, discipline, mental toughness, and, always, generosity of spirit. Mastery of the instrument demands integration of all the human faculties: body, mind, emotions, spirit. Is there a higher calling?

Cello playing is, then, both profession and calling. As absurd as the choice to study music may seem to the practical-minded, those who “hear the calling” risk inner peril by not honoring, acknowledging it. My dad was a professional musician and counseled me to “play well, but do something else professionally.” Alas, the inner drive to play well was too strong -- I had to see what I could do!

If you come to study at the Lamont School of Music, I will work with you as best as I can to help you realize your potential as a cellist. You will find out “what you can do.” You may go on to graduate school and the professional track, you may set up what I hope will be an enlightened teaching studio, you may move out of music vocationally, richer for the investment in yourself. But you’ll never know until you try. Get in touch (email: rslavich@du.edu) and let’s talk.