

Insights into the Creative Life of Julie Giroux

*TBA was honored to have Julie and Dr. Tim present an inspirational interview for the Virtual Convention. Here are some of her thoughts.**

I've always loved the night. It's easier to think, easier to imagine and always easier to let your guard down; be vulnerable yet perfectly safe. Alone. Just me, sleeping dogs, waiting score lines and the peace of night. I get up, stretch my legs, and take the dogs outside just like I've done almost every night for nearly 40 years. The solitary note filled life of a composer.

The sounds of crickets and frogs, a lone car going down the interstate and after a few minutes, the 3 a.m. train rattles by. I imagine the conductor fighting to stay awake as the cars rock back and forth with rhythmic clicks and clacks on the tracks, a lullaby played on steel.

Then, there's the music playing over and over in my head like the divider lines of the highway on the back of your eyelids after driving for hours. Over and over, riding the melody up, no down, there, right there. The perfect range and mood of a clarinet in its low, sensual, dark waters range.

Over and over you turn it, don't forget it before you get it on paper. Back inside we all go before I lose it forever. Captured like Pikachu with Pokémon Go. Back to the chair, the desk, the screen and the mouse, hotkeys gone cold waiting for

something good. They may be waiting a long time.

The contrast is mesmerizing really. The conception and inspiration of music in such a quiet, lonely place that eventually culminates in a big loud premier, months later, in a hall full of people, full of musicians and full of sounds. They want it to be good. They want it to take them somewhere. The audience and musicians alike want the world to shake with music. To rinse the world anew. Loud with delicate articulations and anticipation. Emotions in motion. Shoulder to shoulder, wall to wall, people, and music. All of it conceived in the night by a solitary soul, surrounded by sleeping dogs, peeping frogs, cars in the distance and the constant sound of the original rhythm ringing in your ears; the first rhythm you ever heard, your own, tireless heartbeat.

All of it starts here. Around you. Beside you. Through. You. The music comes and you eternalize it with pixels, then paper, then it rings through the air, thrown back to whence it came. Free again. Not a writer but a conduit. Not a composer but an author. The story starts here. One note at a time. I have sacrificed everything for this profession. Given my life to it. Found

purpose through it. Found truth in it. My life is a carefully balanced sum of notes. When asked "would you do it all over again?" The answer is no because the plan is to give absolutely everything so there is nothing left to do again. No repeat sign. Just the final double bar. The last note I ever write will be captured in the dead of night, surrounded by sleeping dogs, peeping frogs, all wrapped in the peace that comes with a life given freely, completely to music.

Julie Ann Giroux started playing piano at 3 years of age and began composing at the age of 8 and has been composing ever since. Her first published work for concert band, published by Southern Music Company, was composed at the age of 13. Julie began composing commercially in 1984. With over 100 film, television and video game credits, Giroux collaborated with dozens of film composers, producers, and celebrities including Samuel Goldwyn, Martin Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, Madonna, Harry Connick Jr. and many others. When she won her first Emmy Award, she was the first woman and the youngest person to ever win that award. She has won it three times. Giroux has also published a large category of classical works with emphasis on original compositions for Wind Band which are published by Musica Propria and distributed internationally. Giroux has been a true force in a male dominated field and has accrued many previously male only awards. She is a recipient of the Distinguished Service to Music Medal Award, Emmy Awards and was the first female composer inducted into the American Bandmasters Association in 2009.

****Replays of all the 2020 Virtual Convention sessions will be available to registered attendees through December 31, 2020. Online registration will remain open as well. Let your friends know they can still register for \$100 and have access to all the replays.***