



The Effect of Daily Practice Time

By Neal Donner

This chart is based upon my experiences with students. It details the effect of daily practice time upon progress through the Suzuki repertoire books. I have some student on each of the four slopes.

The important point revealed by the chart is that “inborn talent” is not a factor here, except perhaps to account for slight variations within the four slopes. Ability comes simply from practice. And what is also essential to realise, although it is not demonstrated by the diagram, is that practice comes from *motivation*.

In a causative sequence, we have:



But what creates motivation? The environment certainly does. Perhaps motivation exists in and of itself, but if so, it is by that very fact beyond our reach. However, the evidence is that this is not an important factor.

A more critical point is that ability leads to motivation; in other words, one becomes more motivated upon discovering the results of practice (i.e. that one’s ability has grown). So we really have a circular flow:

