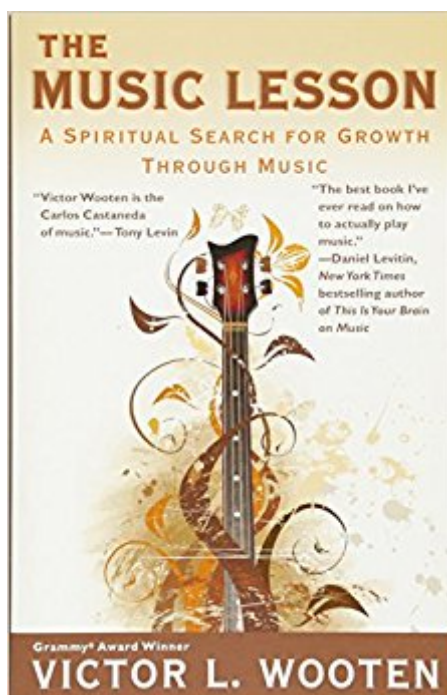


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# The Music Lesson: A Spiritual Search For Growth Through Music



## Synopsis

From Grammy-winning musical icon and legendary bassist Victor L. Wooten comes *The Music Lesson*, the story of a struggling young musician who wanted music to be his life, and who wanted his life to be great. Then, from nowhere it seemed, a teacher arrived. Part musical genius, part philosopher, part eccentric wise man, the teacher would guide the young musician on a spiritual journey, and teach him that the gifts we get from music mirror those from life, and every movement, phrase, and chord has its own meaning...All you have to do is find the song inside.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As music lessons go, this one is unique and can be enjoyed by both musicians and general listeners, especially those interested in the arts and creativity." ---AudioFile --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Victor L. Wooten is an American bass player, composer, producer, and five-time Grammy Award winner, as well as an original member of the jazz and bluegrass band *Béla Fleck and the Flecktones*. He is also the author of the parable *The Music Lesson: A Spiritual Search for Growth Through Music*.

This is definitely the best book i've read on theory from a players perspective ever. Doesn't matter if you're a guitarist, bassist, singer, drummer, woods, brass, etc. Vic really takes a Zen approach to

laying it all out. Love the takeaways from each chapter. I've applied everything here to my 30 years of playing, and gotten better thanks to the advice from The Music Lesson. A couple gems: "Don't lose the groove to find the note", and "The right note is only a half step away". So cool.

What started out to my western mind as new age mumbo jumbo and gobbledegook turned out to be rather enlightening. I highly recommend 'tis book to all musicians. Victor Wooten is one of the top bassists of our age. This book isn't about technique. It's about getting your head right.

Transmits -- not just teaches -- really wonderful stuff about music. New Age-y writing style might be hard for some to take, but totally worth it. I'm a better musician after each chapter -- weird, awesome.

This book is now my 3rd favorite book of ALL TIME! (just behind Thiaoboba and ACIM) There is so much truth in here that it oozes from the pages like honey dropping from a wooden spoon. I believe this book should be REQUIRED reading for EVERY musician on the planet. Wanna be a musician? You HAVE to read this book FIRST!!! That's how much I believe in this. Before I read this book, I had heard of Victor Wooten - and even saw him in concert with Bela Fleck and the 'Flecktones' in Austin at Bass Hall (UT Campus). Bela introduced him as his 'secret weapon'. Back then, I had thought it was because of how great a bass player he is. Now, I know it is because he walks several feet above most other humans.

Victor Wooten writes well. He's a talented and spiritual musician who has the gift of being able to teach others through his music and words. The Music Lesson is not just about how to play the bass guitar or any other instrument, it is about the allowing of music that already exists and the attitude of spirit when creating that music. A wonderful analogy in the book likens the instrument as simply a medium for allowing the music that is already within you in the same way that a pen or computer allows words from within to be created and written onto paper. The pen is not the holder of the words, the writer is. The guitar is not the holder of the music, the player is...I give four and half stars to this book because as I read I felt as though I had come across some aspects of the writing elsewhere in the past. When I read the acknowledgements page I saw that indeed, Mr Wooten had been inspired by Neal Donald Walsch's brilliant book, Conversations with God which I read many years ago. For someone who has not read Conversations with God, you will gain much from The Music Lesson.

I'm a huge fan of Victor's playing -- in concert, one of his solos made my jaw drop in awe and joy. I mean that literally, about half way through I noticed my mouth was wide open. This book doesn't make my jaw drop, but it's an enjoyable read. Even for non-musicians, it's a thought-provoking book. If I owned a book store, I'd put a copy in the Philosophy section.\*POSSIBLE SPOILER ALERT -- FOR THE IDEAS EXPRESSED IN THE BOOK, NOT THE STORY ITSELF\*And this book explains a lot about where Victor's virtuosity comes from. It reminded me of a Simon & Garfunkel song, "For The Asking" -- in the first verse, the singer is playing to "make you smile." He becomes discontented, and ends up playing "all the love that I hold inside." It's a good read just for the story, and gently poses the question: "Are you interested in music for the adulation or for the music?." I bought it to read and then give to a teenager who has a lot of talent but not much self-discipline. I'm not sure I'll pass it on to my young friend, because one recurring theme is "don't practice." In context, it's excellent advice -- going through the motions (literally) of mind-numbing drills isn't worth the time. Someone who's working hard to express themselves better *will* figure out the technical bits on the way to that goal. I'm just concerned that the "incessant effort to improve" message will get lost and only the "Look, Mom, Victor says I don't have to practice, and he's famous!" aspect will win out. Or maybe it will inspire the kid to ask herself whether she's doing it for the adulation or the music. Decisions, decisions.... I'll probably give it to her Mom. ;-D

The story really drew me into the characters. I wondered from the beginning if this wasn't a dream he was having as a lot of things that happened couldn't possibly happen in real life. As a musician myself, it really made me start to think about playing music in a different way. About all the elements involved in playing music. I already knew some of this stuff, but this book really brought it home. The way music was presented in the storyline of the book made it a lot more interesting than just discussing it as music theory. Highly recommend the book.

Not your typical "how-to" musician's guide to practicing, performing, dealing with stress, etc. As a classical musician, I knew the name Victor Wooten growing up, but never took great time to listen to much of his music. With that said, I still enjoyed the book highly. He has a different way of connecting with the reader through a dialogue of himself and another, posing questions and having them answered. It is almost like peeking in on what his music lessons might have been like, seeing the communication between teacher and student. Even as a performer of over 20 years at the harp, I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone wanting a fresh perspective on music,

whether they are a beginner student or well-seasoned.

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