

## Banjo Snob Essays

As you may or may not know, I write a blog about the banjo: [www.banjosnob.com](http://www.banjosnob.com). Over the last seven years, I have put my thoughts, opinions, and technique articles into blog form and shared them with the world. I have learned a lot through this endeavor!

Most of all, I have learned what works and what does not work. There is nothing like raising the ire of a reader to get them to tell you how things should *really* be! For the most part, I appreciate the feedback—both positive and negative. Just throwing my thoughts up on the virtual wall (and seeing what sticks and what doesn't) has been a great personal/musical education for me. I don't know how else I would have gotten those lessons! My work on the current book has *certainly* been informed by the experience.

During the writing of the book (and in the years leading up to it), I kept having ideas that didn't need to be in it. These ideas often ended up in blog form, both as a way of advertising that I was writing a book, and satisfying my insatiable need to talk about stuff. If I didn't write the blogs, the book would have ended up a lot bigger! Looking through it now, I can easily see my personal evolution over the years.

I decided I should make these easily available to you by providing links to the essays (at least the ones that pertain), in case you just can't get enough of my exciting chit-chat! The links should work directly from this PDF, but if not, copy and paste into the search function on the website. In order of posting:

[Self Honesty](#)

[Playing "By Ear"](#)

[Ear-Training Lesson #1](#)

["I don't understand. . .but I will!"](#)

[Finger Buster #1](#)

[Learning, Part 1](#)

[Learning, Part Two: Can/Can't](#)

[Learning, Part Three: Self-Expectations](#)

["Wax on, wax off"](#)

[Application](#) (I think this was the turning point, where I started moving toward this book)

[My Argument for a Classical Banjo Education](#)

[Let Go and Let Music!](#)

[Banjo Music Reading Part 1](#)

["Oh, I learned that in middle school!"](#)

[Are You Ready?](#)

[Ambition](#)

[Reasonable Facsimile](#)

[Simplicity](#)

[Complexity](#)

[Improvisational Musings](#) (I started work on the book right after this)

[I've Tried Everything. . .](#)

[Notes vs. Chords](#)

[Notes vs. Chords part 2](#)

[Knowing vs. Understanding](#)

[Further Beyond Chord Melody](#) (here's where I announced this book)

[The better you get. . .](#)

[Beyond Chord Melody](#) (MP3s for Volume I are here)

[Evolution](#)

[What Is This Thing Called Jazz?](#)

[Modern Jazz Banjo](#)

[Imagination](#)

[Mastery vs. Proficiency](#)

[Imagination Part 2](#)

[The Jazz Improv Spectrum](#)

[The Savant](#)

[Reinventing the Wheel](#)

[My Inner Improviser](#)

[Book Progress](#)

[Personal Growth](#)

[Let It Happen?](#)

[Make it Happen!](#)

I realize I need to give a blanket "thank you" to everyone who has commented on my blogs either on the website or on Facebook. I really do take things to heart! I do not consider myself to be an "expert"; I'm just an avid student of music and the banjo, wanting to share my experiences.