



WABASH CENTER

For Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion



Reflection #1: Teaching and Improvisation: Virtual Symposium Using Creative Pedagogy with Victor L. Wooten

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Blog Series: Notes From The Field

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Tags: imagination | improvisational teaching | creative teaching

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020 we had our first gathering with Victor Wooten and the fifteen scholars who are privileged to be a part of this cohort. Victor asked us, “Why are you here?” Many answered while I listened. I didn’t speak during the formal two hour period, I listened. I hadn’t intended not to speak. Prior to the gathering formally beginning I was my normal raucous self but when Dr. Lynne Westfield called us to order my posture changed. If I would’ve answered the question Victor posed I would’ve said: “I am here because I love music. I am here because I use music in all of my classes. I am here because I think improvisation is the key to living full and adventurous life. I love the guitar. I love the bass. I grew up listening to Larry Graham, Bootsy Collins, James Jamerson, Jaco Pastorius and so many more. I am a true fan of Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller, Christian McBride and Victor Wooten. Victor Wooten is not simply a musician but to me he is a mystic, a teacher, a scholar and brilliant. Whenever Victor Wooten is in town I am there to be a part of the experience.”

Everytime Victor comes to Atlanta I am there (the links below are to photo galleries of two of my recent experiences at a Victor Wooten concert). Victor Wooten at the Variety Playhouse in Atlanta, GA <https://flic.kr/s/aHskZV22bG> <https://flic.kr/s/aHskzJKr6A> I was in this cohort for the experience. I wanted to experience what it meant to be with Victor and my colleagues to do this work together, to grow together and reimagine what teaching could be for us in the present age.

<https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/2020/10/reflection-1-teaching-and-improvisation-virtual-symposium-using-creative-pedagogy-with-victor-l-wooten/>