



Transcript

Meet Marian McPartland

Host of Piano Jazz

McPartland: Actually, I must give my mother credit for.... She liked to play piano for her own fun, I guess. She would sit at the piano and play Chopin waltzes or, uh, nocturnes or something like that. And, and I remember when I was about 3, probably, and I just thought I would like to do what she's doing. And so, uh, one day I just got up on the piano bench and tried to play. In fact, I remember, she was playing a Chopin waltz...um, this one. [McPartland plays the piano.] From that day on, I, I, for the rest of my life, I've played piano.

I was into jazz...um, I don't know...I guess it was when I was first heard some. But, um, I had a boyfriend at school who loved jazz, and he would bring records over to the house, and, uh, I just fell in love with everything I heard—Benny Goodman, Fats Waller, James P. Johnson, everything.

What happens a lot of times, whether you're listening to a record or somebody talk, it seems to me people don't listen that much to really, uh, get the gist of what's happening. [McPartland plays the piano as she talks.] I think playing two pianos has a lot to do with, uh, listening to the other person and, uh, just trying to, uh, fit in and not play too much, get in the other person's way.

If it's something you really want, you've got to be motivated and don't let anything get in your way. If you...if it's something you really want, then you've got to stick at it and, uh, do whatever you have to do to make it possible, to be a success at it. But you can't just be wishy-washy. It's something you really have to, have to be motivated, and, well, actually, when one wants to do that, you really have to love jazz if you're going to be a part of it.

End of video.