

## Be a Good One

Viennese-born composer Frederick Loewe (1901 – 1988) – remembered for his musical scores that include *My Fair Lady*, *Gigi* and *Camelot* – was not always famous.



He studied piano with the great masters of Europe and achieved huge success as a musician and composer in his early years. But when he immigrated to the United States, he failed as a piano virtuoso.

For a while, he tried other types of work, including prospecting for gold and boxing. But he never gave up his dream and continued to play piano and write music.

During those lean years, he could not always afford to make payments on his piano. One day, bent over the keyboard, he heard nothing but the music that he played with such passion and rare inspiration. When he finished and looked up, he was startled to find that he had an audience – three moving men who were seated on the floor.

They said nothing and made no movement toward the piano. Instead, they dug into their pockets, pooled together enough money to satisfy the payment, placed it on the piano and walked out.

Moved by the beauty of his music, these men recognized excellence and responded to it.

And excellence attracts attention. Abraham Lincoln said, “Whatever you are, be a good one.” He demonstrated the wisdom of that advice with his own life.

Martin Luther King Jr. put it this way: “If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.’”

Whatever you are, be a good one. If you believe that what you do is of value – and your role in Life Care and Century Park is valuable because of the people we serve – then we cannot afford to be content with mediocre output.

Albert Einstein said: “We have to do the best we can. This is our sacred human responsibility.”

Choose the path of excellence through this life.

*Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works (Titus 2:7 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter