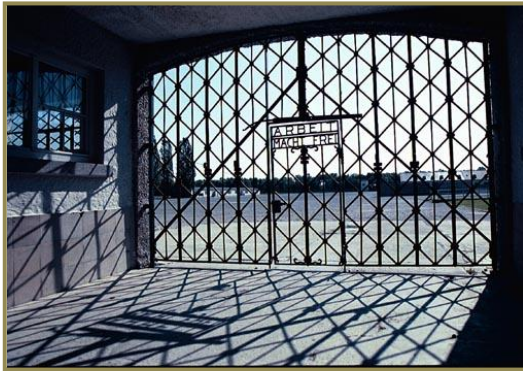


Keeping Hope Alive

At a certain university was a piano teacher simply and affectionately known as Herman. One night, at a university concert, a distinguished piano player suddenly became ill while performing an extremely difficult number.

No sooner had the artist abruptly retired from the stage when Herman rose from his seat in the audience, walked onstage, sat down at the piano and with great mastery completed the performance.



Later that evening, at a party, one of the students asked Herman how he was able to perform such a demanding piece so beautifully without notice and with no rehearsal. He replied, “In 1939, when I was a young concert pianist, I was arrested and placed in a Nazi concentration camp. Putting it mildly, the future looked bleak. But I knew that in order to keep the flicker of hope alive that I might someday play again, I needed to practice every day.

“I began by fingering a piece from my repertoire on my bare board bed late one night. The next night, I added a second piece, and soon I was running through my entire repertoire. I did this every night for five years. It so happens that the piece I played tonight at the concert hall was part of that repertoire. That constant practice is what kept my hope alive. Every day, I renewed my hope so that I would one day be able to play my music again on a real piano, and in freedom.”

What a remarkable story!

What about you? What is your dream? What is it you hope to accomplish in your life?

More importantly, how determined are you, and what are you willing to do to renew your hope?



These are questions each of us should be asking of ourselves.

– Beecher Hunter