

Ludwig's Composition

Ludwig is a student in piano at the University under the instruction of Dr. Steinway. As part of his composition class, he has been assigned the completion of a short piece for piano. The guidelines for this assignment indicate that he may consult with others but must complete the composition alone.

In preparing this composition, Ludwig has spoken with his beloved high school band teacher, Mr. Dreyfus. Mr. Dreyfus has shared a number of examples and ideas concerning the assigned composition that Ludwig finds very interesting. Among the examples is a rough score for an incomplete opus that Mr. Dreyfus had been working on for some time. This composition is nearly complete and is an almost perfect match for the assignment.

Following his meeting with Mr. Dreyfus, Ludwig returns to the music building to work on the assignment. There he encounters several fellow students. He discusses the assignment with them, mentioning his conversation with Mr. Dreyfus and its relationship to the assignment. One of the students, Franz, a senior, tells Ludwig that he had the same assignment from Dr. Steinway two years earlier and still has a copy of his own composition, which he would be happy to share. Dr. Steinway, he indicates, doesn't seem to mind where the composition comes from so long as it reflects some work by the student.

Following these experiences, Ludwig returns to his practice room where, in a brilliant creative moment, he merges Mr. Dreyfus's opus with Franz's prior assignment and creates Ludwig's Composition for Piano, parts one and two. He hastens to class the next day and turns in the composition to Dr. Steinway.

Discussion

- Has Ludwig done anything wrong?
- Has Dr. Steinway done anything wrong?
- Franz done anything wrong?
- Should Ludwig be punished? How?
- Should Dr. Steinway be held responsible? How?
- What are the implications for John/Dr. Steinway/the institution?
- Personally
- Professionally