

Rational Funk with Dave King - just the music lessons

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 1: Intro / The Drum Is a Telephone / Tell YOUR Story

The drum was the first telephone. Early humans used the drum to communicate

Have to patience to sit in silence and listen

No room for second guessing when you are an artist

Warm up by “getting inside” the shuffle

Tell your story - develop your individual sound and story

Use your trauma and pain to make art

Artists mentioned: Dave Weckl, Jackson Pollock

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 2: Ignore The Audience / Know Your Brand / One-Handed Snare Roll

Shedding and shredding - make sure it's in that order

Don't acknowledge your mistakes on stage

Think about how you acknowledge the audience.

Everyone has a brand - what is your identity?

How do you get people to pay attention to your brand?

One handed 5, 7, and 9 stroke rolls. Fuck the 9 stroke roll, 5s and 7s are where it's at

When you dig into a specific musical culture, look for the “real shit”

Artists mentioned: Ernest Hemmingway, Miami Sound Machine, Buena Vista Social Club

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 3: Call & Response / New Orleans / Ants On A Log

Practice call and response on the drumset

Listen to New Orleans music

How do you make a musical conversation more avant-garde? Conversational rhythm

Artists mentioned: Fugazi, Marcel Duchamp

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 4: Artisanal Drumming / Making An Entrance / Emoting

Playing drums is a combative position in the world that fiends after technology

Don't be afraid to break conventions

Music requires real life experience

With no life experience, become a method actor by absorbing and honoring the material

Humility and gentleness is not seemingly rewarded in the music industry,

Swing it

Society doesn't honor purity of emotion,

When playing, how much do you emote and how much do you play it cool?

The things we honor in society, be one of those.

Artists mentioned: Bob Moses, Daniel Day Lewis, Willie Nelson, Earth Wind and Fire

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 5: Individuality / Creating Tension / Brushes

Getting the gig is personality driven

Be an individual

Be an uncomfortable force

Realize the power of abstraction / Avant Garde

Art has the ability to create tension
Bring levity to the situation
Learn traditional grip
Don't try to impress people.
Artists mentioned: Happy Apple, Bruce Nauman

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 6: STOMP / Military Drumming

Anything can be a drum
Hijack certain concepts in a more musical way to use in improvisation: military style, rudiments, marching band
Don't play avant garde on the salsa gig.
Artists mentioned: STOMP, John Williams, Richard Wagner

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 7: Rap Rock Feel / Drummer as Writer

Be the writer, the drummer, the producer
If you want to come up with a rap rock hook, repeat an adage over a rap rock beat
Artists mentioned: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Limp Bizkit, Korn, Kid Rock, Bob Seeger, Avril Lavigne, Pink, Samuel Beckett

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 8: Get Called Back / "Multi-tasking" on Drums

Take risks to set yourself apart from the pack
Be at the gig on time
The drumset is the original multitasker
Try talking while playing
Artists mentioned: none

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 9: The Beginning of the Dream / Pots & Pans

Keep your body and mind tuned up / healthy
How do we turn our dreams into reality?
Don't play plastic tipped sticks
Artists mentioned: Frank Gehry, Ringo Starr, Billy Cobham, John Bonham

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 10: Warming Up / Independence / Sound Check

Warm up
Practice brain exercises/trivia while grooving
Having someone else to work with is good
Practice limb independence - ostinato in feet with different pattern in hands
Don't practice at the music store
Make up your own patterns
Transcribe to get a closer look at the mechanisms of the tunes you like
Artists mentioned: The Bad Plus, Wynton Marsalis, Styx

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 11: The Mystery of Improvisation

Train your mind off your instrument

You're not always doing your craft to get your head together
Let your other influences sink in through osmosis
Train the mind to open itself to ideas in the moment that you can believe in and control, and at the same time they almost have a life of their own
Improv comedy helps one think quickly and intuitively
Artists mentioned: Carrot Top

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 12: Mentoring / Meet "The Professor"

It's important to have a guru/teacher for both music and life lessons
Restrict your practicing to one drum or one limited area of the drum
Work on playing different volume levels on each instrument
Artists mentioned: Dan Brown, Eckhart Tolle

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 13: "The Professor" Pt. 2 / 9-Stroke Roll / Hit a Mic

Read the audience
Practice one handed 9 stroke rolls... or other things that set you apart from other drummers
Trade 4s with other people
If you make a mistake sometimes it is appropriate to acknowledge the mistake by repeating it
Artists mentioned: none

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 14: Access the Past / Auditioning / Independent Rock

Go to the past to be inspired to continue on in the future
How can non musical influences inspire you musically?
Know the appropriate sound/style for the band you are auditioning for or playing with
Find out and try to understand what's going on with youth culture
Artists mentioned: Fleetwood Mac, The Black Crowes, Jim Keltner, Chris Dave, The Smiths, Morrissey, The Bad Plus, The xx

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 15: Rethinking the Drum Solo

Play with your audiences expectations
Artists mentioned: ZZ Top, Frank Beard, Buddy Rich

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 16: Seuss Riffs / Reclaim the Cowbell

The cowbell is a powerful instrument
Artists mentioned: Dr. Seuss, Leslie West, Mick Jagger, The Rolling Stones, Miami Sound Machine

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 17: Keeping it Fresh / Electronic Music

Keep evolving as an artist - don't be the same water, be the same river
Take ideas from your environmental surroundings
Play some patterns obsessively
Know your worth
Don't be intimidated by electronic drums
Artists mentioned: Guy Fieri, Sugar Ray, John Mayer

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 18: Playing Melody on the Drums

There's a balance between entertainment, expression, and doing tricks on your instrument

Try muting you floor tom

Fuck the minimalists

Stupid people can write pretty good melodies sometimes

Artists mentioned: Bette Midler, KISS, Seal, Poison, Jean-Michel Basquiat

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 19: Complexity

Some music can be understood only once you evolve to it

Music requires context

The purpose of music is matching the music to the moment in life.

There are times when the most sophisticated music that is an outpouring of the deepest personal concepts, with unbelievable connection to the universal mind, is worthless.

On the flipside, there are times when you are searching for the outer reaches of human consciousness and are deep into advanced, complex music, when rock and roll will not cut it.

Artists mentioned: Alfred Schnittke, Arnold Schoenberg, AC/DC, Tom Petty

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 20: Drum Hygiene

[Video blocked in country]

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 21: Lady Gaga / Laptops

Why do people with high fashion taste and high vibrating ideas make insipid and easy music?

Using a laptop does not make you sophisticated

Artists Mentioned: Lady Gaga, Alexander McQueen, Beyonce, Ed Blackwell

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 22: Rudiments in My Head / Hambone

Visualize and audiate perfect rudiments in your head

Play drums with your hands

Artists mentioned: Buddy Rich, John Bonham, Earth Wind and Fire

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 23: Extended Technique & the Avant Garde / Jackson Pollock

What is extended technique? Little ideas to manipulate the sounds beyond their normal application

What are our basic techniques?

The avant garde is serious

Artists mentioned: Herlin Riley, Wynton Marsalis, Tony Oxley, Slim Jim Phantom, Stray Cats, Meg White, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Clyfford Still

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 24: Metal Drums / More Runnin' & Gunnin'

Slow footage down to figure out what players are doing

Mute the floor tom for an auxiliary kick drum sound or double bass drum sound

Don't judge while you are getting it together

You gotta be in shape to play metal drums

Artists mentioned: Lars Ulrich, Motley Crue, Meshuggah

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 25: Modern Country / "Whiplash"

Old country is cool

Seven stroke rolls all around the kit

Use good technique, control the sticks with your fingers

Artists mentioned: Dave King, Hank Snow, Rascal Flatts

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 26: Hip-Hop

How do you get the gig?

Have your ear to the street

Be yourself - people will respect you if you are real

Diversify your portfolio

Hip Hop is a pure American art form.

Artists mentioned: Jay-Z, Ice Cube, Kanye West, ASAP Rocky, Eminem, John Coltrane, Public Enemy

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 27: More Hip-Hop

Why are there no small time hip hop shows (in the Midwest)?

How do hip-hop artists go from nothing to huge?

Put the beats in their own spheres

Chunk the hi hat for a fatter groove

The time feel of early Hip Hop was insanely on top of the beat

Time feel has evolved to become further behind the beat and more arhythmic and progressive

You've got to be able to emulate these new progressive sounds. "meta the shit"

Artists mentioned: Kendrick Lamar, John Bonham, Sugar Hill Gang, D'Angelo, ?uestlove, Chris Dave

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 28: Special Guest "Mark Guiliana"

[Video blocked in country]

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 29: John Williams / Charting Riffs

It's fun to invent your own little riffs

Remember them (or write them down)

Music is an aural language

You don't need sheet music at a gig

Artists mentioned: Lady Gaga, John Williams

RATIONAL FUNK Ep. 30: Happy 30th episode / Thank you!

Thank you for watching and supporting this show