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EMDTMS Course Director Dr. Richard Repp (right)

"I do classical music and I also do rock and pop music. I really feel that that balance is very important between the two for a trained musician to be able to improvise and for a rock guy to also be able to read music."

Dr. Richard Repp, EMDTMS Course Director

Not Just A Course Director: Dr. Richard Repp

Opera singer, rock guitarist and educator extraordinaire!

Dressed in a loosely hanging chartreuse vest, looking like a gypsy straight out of Medieval times, you probably wouldn't guess that this belting stage presence in the chorus of the Orlando Opera spends his days in front of a computer as an online instructor for Full Sail University. Dr. Richard Repp, whose shy, real-life demeanor takes backstage seven days a week to his empowering microphone-less performances as an opera singer, has plenty of secrets up his sleeve.

"Well, of course music is the passion, but I didn't have the right personality or the talent to be a performer, so I kind of came back to school to get my music degree," Repp said. "Even if I could work up the skills to do it, I just couldn't deal with the lifestyle. So this is a way for me to stay in touch with music and still do

what I'm better at, which is actually educational technology. That's my specialization."

Repp is a Course Director for the Education Media Design and Technology Master's of Science program at Full Sail. He took time to share his method for balancing his love for music (both as a rock guitarist and a classical opera singer) with his passion for education.



Repp's Time Management Model

If you, too, struggle to maintain your music interest alongside your course work and your daily job, you may find this suggestion helpful. Repp recommends that you spend a week recording everything that you do and how long you do it for. Write it down. At the end of the week, add up how much time you spent on every activity. The next step is where discipline comes in.

You must now decide to cut time out on activities that are not necessary and add that time to pursue your interests. The best way to accomplish this is to write out a daily schedule for yourself, hour by hour, and stick to it. Block off certain periods of time to practice your music and be productive.

"Because when you're a musician, serious practicing, you never want to do it," Repp said. "It's a real chore to practice. I used to practice three hours a day. So the only way to really practice three hours a day is you can't wait until you feel like it. You have to say: well, I'm going to block off an hour in the morning, an hour in the afternoon and an hour at night, and then stick to your schedule."

As someone with so many interests, Repp reflects the perfect role model for Full Sail students who are equally as eclectic in their varied talents. Even within his single interest of music, Repp points out that it's necessary to let the practices of different types of styles play off one another in order to keep a sense of harmony both in music and in life.



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Repp currently sings in the chorus for the production "Il Trovatore" being performed at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center in Orlando, Fla. He has participated in operas in Ohio, Illinois and Georgia as well, but while he's modest about his own talents, he acknowledges that the opera scene is not an easy one to break onto. He emphasizes the importance of networking.

"It's not easy to get into a good company," Repp said. "Luckily I had some references, I had worked with the choral director previously, so I knew him, but Orlando's got a good company, so not everybody that tries out makes it."

-Ashley Belanger

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