



# TOUCHPOINT

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"Grit is living life like it's a  
marathon, not a sprint."

- Angela Lee Duckworth, Professor,  
Psychology, Univ. of Pennsylvania



## WORTH YOUR TIME!

**PERSONAL PRELUDE:** It's not my style to recommend to anyone a personal self-chosen list-of-readings. However, I would be remiss not to draw attention to the remarkable insights shared by researcher Angela Duckworth in her best-seller: ***GRIT: The Power of Passion and Perseverence***. From my perspective, this book is a **MUST READ**.

**"WHY" TOUCHPOINT?** Over the years this cyberspace newsletter has been the source of a wide array of information, from compelling music advocacy data to videos supporting the recruitment-and-retention of music students (and everything in between!). The number #1 priority is: **RELEVANCE**. It is imperative you and your colleagues garner worthy-pragmatic benefits from the investment of your "reading time."

With this in mind, please consider adding the aforementioned book to your professional library; it is certain to advance-and-support anyone (everyone) who is part of our arts community (or any other community for that matter). Admittedly, several people had availed me to this outstanding volume-of-wisdom, but it wasn't until a few months ago I

took the time to dive into the pages of: *GRIT: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*. The basic premise of the book focuses on **WHAT IT TAKES** to reach a high level of success. It is based on extensive research and written in a user-friendly style that is easily consumable and clearly transferrable to any-and-all situations.

After countless interviews with those who have achieved **EXCELLENCE**, Dr. Duckworth came to the following conclusion:

**TALENT + EFFORT = SKILLS**

**SKILLS + EFFORT = ACHIEVEMENT**

Of course, the common denominator is: **EFFORT**. We can label it commitment, dedication, perseverance, "nose-to-the-grindstone," etc., but it is a matter of focusing one's "on-task EFFORTS" to achieve the given goal.

For our students, our colleagues, and ourselves, it is ever-apparent those who are at the "top-of-their-game" are the ones who are constantly growing, learning, and becoming more proficient, more efficient, and more effective at what they do...fueled by **PERSONAL EFFORT. "Success begets success."**

My only regret about this outstanding book is: I DIDN'T READ IT SOONER! You will be well-advised to garner a copy of: *GRIT: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, and connect with the magic elixir of certain success: **EFFORT!**

...let the music begin...

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