

# MUSICIANS IN TUNE

SEVENTY-FIVE  
CONTEMPORARY  
MUSICIANS  
DISCUSS THE  
CREATIVE  
PROCESS

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# Nurturing Creativity

"My creative life is a constant struggle to achieve a balance between letting things flow in and letting things flow out."

—Don Henley

WHAT EXACTLY DOES THE WORD *CREATIVITY* MEAN? I HAVE struggled with that question and its ramifications for many years. In the past I considered creativeness and talent as going hand in hand, talent being a natural ability or aptitude, which perhaps was inherited genetically. It was my belief that only those special people who were born with a great gift could create something novel and extraordinary. I have since come to see that talent and creativeness are two entirely different things. Simply having talent does not always guarantee that one is creative; conversely, one does not require an exceptional gift to be creative.

In its most basic form, creativity is a universal, innate quality. Its prerequisites are traits we as human beings naturally possess: curiosity and a sense of wonder. These inborn characteristics are essential for exploring our surroundings and thinking intuitively and imaginatively, fundamental aspects of creativeness.

*Creativity* can also be used in another sense, to describe the creation of artistic and highly specialized pursuits. In addition to that basic sense of wonder and curiosity, creative people also have a prodigiously developed interest in something. The root of this

