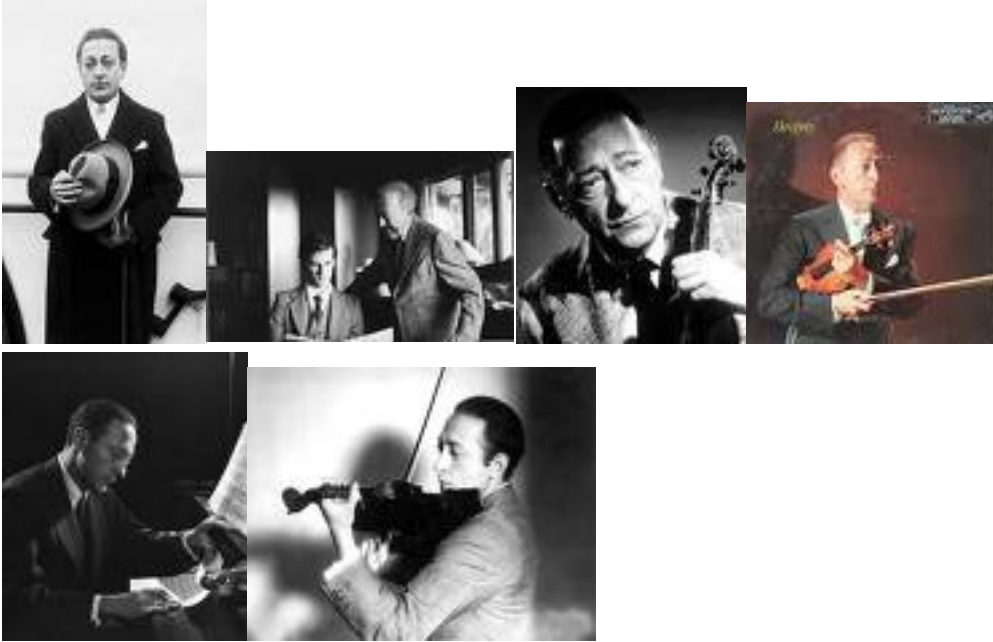


HANDOUT FOR LESSON TWO – PREPARING TO TEACH What Is Teaching?



The day after the 19-year-old Heifetz's London debut, George Bernard Shaw wrote him a now legendary letter. "If you provoke a jealous God by playing with such super-human perfection," Shaw warned, "you will die young. I earnestly advise you to play something badly every night before going to bed, instead of saying your prayers. No mortal should presume to play so faultlessly."

Heifetz is widely considered to be one of the most profoundly influential performing artists of all time. Born in Vilna, Russia on February 2, 1901, he became a U.S. citizen in 1925. Fiercely patriotic to his adopted country, he gave hundreds of concerts for Allied service men and women during World War II, including tours of Central and South America, North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany, often playing from the back of a flatbed truck in dangerous conditions. In 1928, he published the first of dozens of acclaimed violin transcriptions. Many, including his arrangements of selections from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," are now part of the standard repertoire. Using the pseudonym Jim Hoyle, he even wrote a pop song that became a hit in 1946. In his later years, Heifetz became a dedicated teacher and a champion of causes he believed in. He led efforts to establish "911" as an emergency phone number, and crusaded for clean air. He and his students at the University of Southern California protested smog by wearing gas masks, and in 1967 he converted his Renault passenger car into an electric vehicle.

As a result of his vast recorded legacy, Heifetz's violin playing is no less influential today than it was in his lifetime. To legions of violinists he remains, quite simply, "The King." He died in 1987.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Joseph Heifetz in black ink, featuring a long, sweeping underline.