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Dr. Masterson

Music Theory I

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Why I Want to Pursue Music

Throughout my life, I have loved singing, playing and listening to music. I was fortunate enough to gain choir and instrumental experience starting in the sixth grade; nevertheless, until I entered high school, I did not realize the full impact music had on my life. My niche in high school was the music department: it was where I made friends and an area in which I excelled. However, the music classes did much more than just introduce me to new people; those classes allowed me to grow as a person.

Through leadership roles within choir and band, I recognized the merit of the teaching of music. I not only saw how it influenced me, but also how it influenced and helped others as well. This was demonstrated in one key instance during my high school career. At the beginning of my junior year, my younger sister experienced major health problems and was sent to an intensive treatment center. She would reside there for three to four months at a time and then come home for a short break. I filled the hole that she left with my music. Every day I woke up and yearned to spend all day in my choir or band class. There is something about music that just makes other problems fade to nothingness for a short time. I believe music was my salvation in high school; without it, I’m not sure I would have had the opportunity to study here today.

As my senior year approached, I was sure I had my life planned; I was going to study interior design at Kansas State University. However, upon further revelation I felt that course of study would not be something I could do for the entirety of my life. Music, on the other hand, is something I believe that I will love and be passionate about for the rest of my existence. Though I love all forms of music, I chose to pursue a vocal music education degree because of the accessibility of the art. I love the fact that any type of person can sing; regardless of gender, race, cultural background, or socio-economic state. There is no need to pay money for an instrument because you are given one at birth. It is a commonality between all people and thus connects us forever through music.

Nevertheless, I know obtaining a music education will not always be easy. Like everything in life, there are points in one’s musical study in which the passion rises and falls. However, in college especially, it is important to find a way to keep your “flame” burning bright. When the classes and musical selections become more challenging, one must find ways to keep motivated. My main inspiration is envisioning the potential available to every concept or piece. In class, often time concepts are foreign or I believe they are unimportant; yet, I realize the importance of the foundational elements. I always relate things to my final goal: which in this case is to become a music teacher. I am also reenergized after listening to a superior concert or soloist and realizing they started at the point I did and now he or she is an exceptional musician. Additionally, I have found that surrounding yourself with supportive people helps one maintain objectivity and work toward goals. Students with similar aspirations are key individuals to have by your side.

I believe the successfulness of a person is measured by one’s happiness and contentment with life. In order for my life to fulfilling, I believe I must obtain a job I absolutely adore. On rare occasion I have met individuals who have a zest for working life; I want to be one of those people. In my vocation I want to inspire students through music. Without a network of incredible music teachers, I may not have decided to turn my passion into a career. I hope that I can have that effect on even one student.

In the words of Josh Groban,“Music is what I always turn to when I'm feeling a certain way. It's my reason for everything." This statement exemplifies my life! I cannot think of doing anything else. I believe this path is correct for me.