

## Living My Dream of Playing Music

“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”

These wise words are from Plato, a Greek philosopher. He said music penetrates “into the very core of the self, causing great impact on the character,” and rhythm and harmony “find their way into the soul and take strongest hold upon it.”

Music is a universal language which speaks to everyone. It even speaks to us through our dreams. It brings us closer to others and ourselves. It evokes emotions, awakens memories, and brings about reactions. It’s calming, invigorating, stimulating, and often inspiring. (In fact, I suggest you listen to music while you read this memoir. But that would mean you would need access to my playlist to experience some of the same emotions I felt while writing this essay.

Music is defined in Webster’s Dictionary as “the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination, and in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity.”

But music is so much more than simple sounds to me. It is a composite of very different feelings expressed by very different people. I feel that one can learn so much from the artist’s expression in his or her song. Artists share their dreams, their hopes, and their wishes through music. They use it to enlighten or enhance people’s feelings.

To fully express how I feel, I need to listen to music. Listening to music helps me to relate to my personal feelings, and this can be very helpful. I find that I listen to a song in a major key when I feel happy and listen to a song in a minor key when I feel sad. Music also gives me hope of achieving my dreams. One dream I’ve had since I was a young girl is playing my own music.

People may think that music is not “deep.” However, music is a direct way to channel one’s emotions and reactions. It’s a form of therapy, and I have used it to work through some difficult moments in my life. Music helps me to have a positive outlook on life and keeps me grounded. It helps me to focus and follow my purpose in life. Don’t get me wrong; music wasn’t responsible for making me overthink or

feel sad. It was how the music made me feel that helped me process my emotions. The music made me forget my worries and feel free enough to say, “It will all be okay” and “it will all work out.”

In addition to the “help” music has provided, I also have a direct connection because I play two instruments. Playing my trumpet and guitar is important to me because I am able to express myself in various ways through playing these instruments. After taking private lessons for both instruments and playing trumpet in my school’s band, I now understand what a song may be composed of or how the instruments work together to make a unified expression. Through my experience as a musician, I find that music has its own language and brings all different kinds of people together. When I play music, I’m able to live my dream of being an actual musician.

I recently performed a solo on my trumpet at a recital. It was my first longer solo and was titled “Aria.” It was a beautiful song. As I played the notes, I felt the nervousness slip away and my passion took over. I played each note purposely and completely. I felt the joy from within me grow deeper as each note slipped off my fingertips. The true happiness and pride I felt was evident in my smile when I completed the piece. The audience showed their appreciation for the piece by clapping loudly for several seconds. I was able to live out my dream in the spotlight in that theater and it was a glorious moment.

For me, music has also become a connector with some of my favorite activities. This includes dance, another passion of mine. The close relation of dance and playing an instrument are two activities which are organized around rhythmic patterns. Both art forms are structured through time. Dance is an explanation for music, and music is an explanation of dance.

When I feel like I’m not playing my instrument as well as I would like to, I remember the spark of happiness that music always gives to me. I feel that it is the same for dance. When I struggle or have doubts about the way I dance, I remember that I will always have a love for music which can make me dance. No matter how I feel, I know that music can always give me a positive feeling.

My mom has encouraged my love of music. She introduced me to many different genres of music at a young age. She has helped to expand my love for music, from classic rock and roll to her pop and country favorites from the 1990s and 2000s. I recall sitting in the backseat when I was little, and I could

always see her smile in the rearview mirror when she played a new song for me. I have lost count of how many times she has introduced new-to-me songs. On the way to or from school in the car, she often says, "I think you might like this one." One time she played "What Would You Say" by the Dave Matthews Band. She has also introduced me to classic country singers such as Keith Whitley and Kenny Rogers, and I now have an appreciation for The Cranberries, Hootie and the Blowfish, Aerosmith, and Bon Jovi. We often sing along with the songs. Although my mom never had the opportunity to be in her school's band, she says she is a "born percussionist" and loves the drum part in Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll." When we are together in the car, I always twist the small dial to increase the volume of the music so it flows through us with such intensity. Our combined love for music brings us such joy. No matter how old I am or where I am in my career, I know we will always have these memories we have woven together with music. Even though my mom never got to experience her dream as a musician, she now encourages me to pursue my passion for music. She tells me all the time that I can dream and achieve my desire to become a musician.

Music truly is a universal language which speaks volumes to people. It brings people together. It evokes emotions, awakens memories, and brings about reactions. Music is calming, invigorating, stimulating, and inspiring.

The saying "if you can dream it, you can do it" is becoming true for me. Music is my passion, and I cannot imagine my life without it. I'm so grateful my dream to pursue music is becoming more than a dream. It's becoming reality.