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"How I plan to integrate my love of music into my professional career."

I remember the first instrument I learned to play when I was 8 years old, growing up in Queens, New York—it was a violin. I was only 8 years old at the time. As many kids are at that age, I remember being engulfed by Nintendo games and after-school cartoons. I lost interest in learning the violin because of the diligence involved with learning music lessons. Much later on in my life however, at the age of 20, I started producing music on my computer using a program called Reason. Being able to express my thoughts and emotions in the form of music was a cathartic experience for me, and it made me come to terms with many of the negative things from my past, which I was struggling with. I was very eager to share my music with others and after receiving a lot of compliments from my family and peers, I realized that I have a lot of potential as an artist. This drove me to enroll in classes learning music theory and audio engineering, so I could improve my musical skills. This also triggered the development of my ambition to pursue a professional career related to producing music.

A lot of my musical inspiration stems from my life experiences and the negative elements which I have been able to overcome. Since I returned to school and

began pursuing a better future, most of the people I meet now are shocked to hear my life story, and how I have persevered through extremely difficult situations. I grew up in a background of violence and trauma, which I endured throughout my adolescent years. I experienced a lot of hardship as a teenager due to drug abuse and acting out violently. It wasn't until I started making music that I found a way to channel my feelings in a way that was positive versus being destructive. As an artist, the success I have attained by overcoming these obstacles is expressed through the music I create. It is not only a cathartic experience to be able to express myself through music, but it is also inspiring for others to listen to.

Most of what I have learned about music production and audio engineering has been self-taught up to this point. The courses I've taken in school has provided me with a solid foundation to build upon; although a lot of what I learn in my current audio production course at SFSU are concepts I have previously taught myself through books related to music production. Although I may not be learning anything new in my current audio course, this class is a prerequisite for other Music Recording Industry courses which are offered through SFSU Extension Learning. I am extremely excited to be taking the MRI courses next semester. It will allow me to be in a class with teachers whom have established a prominent career in the music industry. Also, I will have access to these and many other resources through the MRI courses and SFSU Extension programs. I intend to continue working on my own projects in my home studio, which I have designed and built on my own.

As an active participant of the College Students of Broadcasting, I will be involved in many different upcoming events which expose students to industry insiders. Unfortunately, the music industry is very exclusive, in which success depends on who you know, rather than your talents. I am putting forth a lot of effort to network with as many professionals that I can, so I ensure myself a career once I graduate.

The upcoming career fair in November is an event I am looking forward to attending. I intend to meet prospective employers, and provide resumes and business cards to get my name out within the music industry. I have also taken the initiative to look into joining guilds and associations so that I can take advantage of the different resources that are available through those professional networks. I am already a member of the Audio Engineers Society which is one of the biggest networking organizations for music and post-production professionals.

Ultimately, I would like to achieve a career as an artist, who can influence the way people think and perceive reality. Although I have experienced a lot of negativity, I am not a complete cynic in my world views. I do believe there is hope in positive changes becoming a reality, if there are leaders who are willing stand up and express what they believe is fair or wrong. An artist is a leader that is able to open up people's minds to important issues which deserve their attention for discourse. As a Korean-American, I hope that my music will bring to light what people from my culture have experienced, and critique a lot of the stereotypes which are not only associated with Asian-Americans, but people of all walks of life. Music is like social cement, which bonds people together. I hope that my music can inspire diversity so all cultures can gather and embrace the ideal that we share a lot of the same values and beliefs since we're all human beings.

I also have a lot to express in my views of socioeconomic barriers which exist in the world, and the disadvantages that underprivileged communities have to endure at the cost of humanity. America has come a long way in dealing with issues such as racism, sexism, and socioeconomic segregation. However, there are still many more issues that need to be brought to attention in these areas, so more positive growth can manifest and life can be improved. Music definitely has the power to accomplish this and I hope to be one of the many artists that have made a contribution towards this cause before my life is over. With this ideal in mind, I

hope to start a career after I graduate from SFSU and integrate the passion I have for music into my future.