

I feel that the trip to New York had really broaden my horizon as a person and a music student. I was able to experience a whole new kind of showmanship and environment that our state does not have.

For me, the most memorable moment was when our group visit St. John the Divine. Along with the beautiful crafts of the cathedral, there was a group of musicians that was performing a genre of music that I have never heard before. They had strange looking drums and flutes, and I could only assumed that it was some sort of traditional instruments and style of music. It was breathtaking. Very soft and sweet sound that echo and vibrate inside the humongous church. It sound sacred (holy music maybe?). I really wish I had taken a recording of it. But truly, to be in the audience in that moment was really special to me. I absolutely love it – it was something that I don't think I will experience again.

Then there was the Lion King show.

I have not seen a play in such a long time that when the curtain opened and all these puppets animals emerged on the stage, I could not tear my eyes away. I did not expect such a powerful opening. It shook me and I got very giddy. The staging and the acting were superb while the songs gave me shiver. I love all of it to piece and it reminded me of the high caliber of performers in New York. It was such a shame that we could not see the orchestra, but the conductor was visible, and I had fun observing his directing, cut off and etc. Later, I also had the chance of watching many difference conductors at Manhattan School of music and at the New York Philharmonic. It fascinated me that each of their style is different and the orchestra made a totally different sound depend on their conductor. I greatly enjoy the performances at Manhattan School of Music. I was watching the concernmistress and the upper strings and it was very inspiring compare to the professional NY orchestra. I'm guessing because they were not yet professionals that I felt myself being influenced by them, being a student myself.

Last but not least, our masterclass with Mr. Lion King director. The one thing I took from that was unifying our thought of a scenario to perform a specific dynamic. I found that to be quite helpful within sectional practice with a few exception. I thought the class helped us tremendously on Centrefugue, but I felt the experimenting around with the rhythms had no point – maybe the director did had a point that I wasn't able to catch. It did make us pay attention to him and I feel that's something our orchestra still need to work on with our current director. I was also reminded of the necessity of connection in the business that in turn I, too, need to expand my circle of people. Other than that, I did not acquired any tips on techniques like I had hope. But it was okay, since skills take a long practice to hone.