

Mrs. Booth

Orchestra II

02 June 2014

Reflection: Spring 2014

Recently I had the chance to play at a small graduation ceremony, and my experience there made me realize that I am still lacking in various aspects musically speaking. With the successes that our orchestra brought back this spring, the championship, a memorable concert and reception performance, I guess unintentionally, I had loosen up my concentration and because of that, I took a step backward.

After the last song that our chamber group performed at the ceremony, a tiny bit of me regretted that I wasn't able to give my best performance out there, even when I had put sometime into practicing the pieces – with recordings and all. But when I looked back, I see that the effort I gave wasn't all that I had. I could have make time to practice more. And I could have arrange rehearsal with other group members, so we can play together. But I didn't. And I believe that that's the threshold between a barely acceptable performance and one that make people go 'wow'.

When we played at the reception on Senior Night, I came to understand that in the real world, while you can play to make money, you're still just background music for something more important. And that kind of sting. But toward the end, when people were filming us, when we were playing with everything we got and they clapped loudly, I realized that 'hey, background music can make impacts, too' and that made me really happy. In the future, I wanted to be able to play the kind of music that would make someone stop in bewilderment, unexpected that some orchestra group they hired was playing with such power and enthusiasm. The kind of music that is both enjoyable to play and hear, and the kind where someone would remember.

Everything, in the end, comes back to the amount of practice that was put in. I must have forgotten how practicing made me who I am today. At the beginning of the year, I remembered that I could barely play the Brandenburg 3 and now I'm tackling these new songs, solos, and gigs. My improvement was something that I was proud of, but then I began to forget that this isn't enough and I could do even better. Maybe it is greedy, but personally there are many things, many goals that I still want to achieve. As a section leader, I want to be able to pull my section together when everybody are lost. Playing right and loud enough, so they could follow. As an individual, I want to improve my sound and techniques – finger positions, bowing, etc. – so that one day, I could stand on stage and play Caprice 24 for solo violin with great confidence.

I have always depended on others and took for granted the fact that my mistakes will be cover by my orchestra, but because of my experience at the ceremony, I wanted to become someone that others can depend on, too. Although, wanting and doing are two different things. And goals are easier said than done. So as of right now, I will only focus on practicing for graduation and I hope to do a better job when in time of performing. Everything else will be plan and work on during the summer, thus I hope my motivation still stay with me during that time to allow me to grow to some extend when we meet next year. I'm sorry for the lengthy reflection, but I could not stop writing. I also want to thank you for giving me many opportunities to make improvements while having so much fun playing music.