

Why Music? I could list many quotations such as Longfellow's "Music is the universal language of mankind" or Nietzsche's "Without music, life would be a mistake." There are lots of quotes but, for me, music is not a choice. It is the one area in which I excel. Both my parents have music performance degrees, and my sister is currently a music education major at Virginia Commonwealth University. I never remember a time when music was not a part of my life. My mother played music CDs of Mozart and Harry Connick, Jr. for me before I was born. I was exposed my whole life to the music of the Army bands my dad was in. There are pictures of me conducting from the audience of the Music Under the Stars concerts when I could barely walk. This is not to say that my parents pushed music as a career on either my sister or I, but there was no way around it. Music was always on in our home, we were at concerts, or we were watching musicals on TV.

In Mrs. Northcutt's 5th grade music class when we played the recorder, I figured out on my own how to play the Spongebob theme song. At the end of that year Mrs. Powell came over to test us for which instrument we would play next year in middle school band. I was approved for both drums and trumpet. I settled on trumpet, and that was the best decision I have ever made. My interest really began to increase my freshman year of high school when I made district band and was placed as first chair of the PHS Symphonic Band. The more I practiced, the better I got, the higher chair I won, and the more awards I received. By my sophomore year I realized that music is what I want to do. Every day for the rest of my life. While my friends play video games for hours on end, I practice. When they are practicing lacrosse, I am at rehearsals. There is always a concert or a competition that keeps me practicing. For example, in March I won the National Trumpet Competition; last Sunday I performed as the concerto competition winner for the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra; on May 17 I will perform the Hummel concerto at the Ferguson Center with the Chesapeake Bay Wind Ensemble; May 19 I leave to compete in the International Trumpet Guild competition; and the week after graduation I leave to

attend the intensive six week music camp at Interlochen. This fall I will study trumpet performance at Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University to earn my Bachelor of Music degree. Music is an integral part of my genetic makeup, it is what I do best, and it is what I love to do most. All the time I spend now will increase my chances of reaching my goal of performing in a premiere military band or symphony orchestra.

Why Music? I have put together a DVD that further shows why music is not a choice in my life. It is a necessity. Thank you for considering me for the Asher Goldman scholarship.