

Moonsu Kim

University Frames Scholarship Submission

Immigrating to the United States when I was five, my journey with music really began as an involuntary chore that was forced upon me. However, the longer I played, the more fascinated I became by the music I was able to produce. Music let me express my feelings and relieve the stress I felt in my new environment. While it was hard to communicate verbally with my classmates, it was easy to connect to audiences through my performances. As I found continued success with the violin, I decided to pursue it as my career, eventually going to the Jacob School of Music at Indiana University as a violin performance major. At Indiana, while taking a pedagogy class and teaching at the local elementary school, I soon discovered my passion for teaching. I also learned first-hand what it meant to be an elementary school music teacher. The list of tasks I had to complete in a given day were endless, but the end results were always gratifying. While I loved to perform, helping students improve was more satisfying than any performance or concert I gave. As I watched students excel in their own efforts, I realized what I really wanted to do for my own career: music education. After graduating and returning home to North Carolina, I started teaching violin, piano, and viola at music academies and realized how much information I could share with my students from my own experiences. I will now be attending Teachers College at Columbia University, majoring in Music Education.

When hopefully the pandemic is long past us and everyone can be comfortable making music together again, I see myself having my own private studio and happily mentoring students of all ages, from beginners to adults, holding annual recitals, and talking to parents about how far their children have grown and how much they will still accomplish. I also envision myself as part

of a public school system and nurturing children who might have never even picked up an instrument. I will be taking attendance on names I will most likely mispronounce, lining up students in a single file for the cafeteria, and sending the misbehaving ones to the “timeout” corner. I now realized if I had never picked up the violin in elementary school, I would have never learned to love it and eventually major in music. Nor would I have done so if I hadn’t constantly received remarkable support from my middle and high school orchestra teachers who always encouraged me. I want to be the same kind of mentor for the next generation. Once I gain experience working with young students, I want to open my own music school in my hometown and bring kids from all around the state together. When I was a teenager, I attended a local youth program where the director taught us to be grateful for the privilege of playing music because too many people around the world would never have that opportunity to create beauty together. She inspired all of us to love what we do, and I want to do the same for the next generation. One can experience a plethora of emotions from music; from sadness to joy, from despair to hope. People can escape reality, even just for a moment, and appreciate all that life has to offer through the power of music.