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### My Introduction to Musicals

From the beginning of time, music has one of the wonders of this world. Music is the art of using a combination of sounds to expression feelings and emotion. Specifically in America, because of our European upbringing, our music culture has been cultivated by those such as beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, and so many more. One of the greatest creations in the music world was the combination of acting and singing or as we come to know them, musicals. In particular, New York is one of the most popular places on the planet for musicals. Being from manhattan myself I can affirm that this city has been the center of musical theatre. Shows like Wicked, Hamilton, School of Rock, Phantom of the Opera and so many more has been the most recent display of excellence. My introduction to musicals and music in general was quite an interesting journey.

To begin, I grew up in a musically talented family. All my siblings are musicians and my parents are gospel artists, so for me music has always been significant. As a child Having a love for music came naturally, I loved to listen to what my parents exposed me to, which at the time was contemporary gospel music and some pop. At the time, at about eight years old I began to play the drums for my church. Music to me was all about the rhythms, nothing more and nothing less. When I would listen to music from michael Jackson or any artist for that matter, my ear was keen only to the sound of the drums. Unfortunately, I hadn't realized how naive I was. Music is

so much more than just a beat, sticks, cymbals, pedals, and toms. Music at it's finest is the collaboration of multiple instruments and various pitches, sounds, to create an ideal representation of emotion. Thankfully, one particular day I realized this aesthetic.

During the summer of 2015, I was introduced to true music. In the month of June, at the end of my freshman year of highschool, my father began to teach me how to play the piano. He came into my room, at the time I didn't have a summer activity and he saw that I was extremely bored. He said, "Josh come here and let me show you something on the keys." My brother had received a Roland FA 06 piano which was the week prior. The piano was beautiful, it had so many sounds from trumpets, organs, bass, vox and so much more. I followed him to the piano and he said nonchalantly not really expecting to retain anything significant, "When you were a baby you had a fascination with the piano, do you remember that?"

"No pops I don't remember, I was baby," I answered humorously.

Then it began, my intro to the music arena. He made it sound so simplistic, "Josh so this is C,C#,D,Eb,E,F,F#,G,G#,A,Bb,and B." I don't think he realized that he was exposing me to a universe I had not been accustomed to. The next week he taught me chords and from then on my life was forever changed.

Then there was HSM. During that same summer, coincidentally there was a *Highschool Musical* marathon. Of course it was only natural for a millennial kid, born in the year 2000 to revisit past and watch a childhood favorite. But I had no idea that I would fall in love with this movie all over again, but this time it wouldn't be because I had a crush on Vanessa Hughdens, and Ashley Tisdale, but because of the music. I listened to songs over and over again thinking of the deeper meanings and simply appreciating the music. I hadn't realized how well composed the

movie was, in fact that same week I learned how to play each and every one of the movies solos and duets. I had fell in love with the beauty of the music and the movement along with it. “A Night to Remember” in particular, had choreography that seemed quite picturesque. For some reason the three movies became so enjoyable to me, even today sometimes before I practice on the piano I do covers and renditions of those songs.

Now I see music in a different light, I see the magnitude of the collaboration of sound, dance and song. All together musicals display the ultimate form of expression and this is why I love the music theatre.