

July 2014

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Recommended Citation

Han, Ingang (2013) "Something I had learned from Brevard Music Festival," *Kaleidoscope*: Vol. 11, Article 69.
Available at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kaleidoscope/vol11/iss1/69>

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Something I had learned from Brevard Music Festival

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I went to the Brevard Summer Festival during summer vacation. It was really great and valuable experience for me. First of all, I would like to introduce Brevard Summer Festival. Every summer, Brevard festival is opened for publics and four hundred talented students all around world during the summer season. From the festival, the students could get a lot of performing experience, repertories and lessons from outstanding professors. It is one of the biggest festivals in the U.S. More than 30,000 audiences are participated in the festival every year.

Music-major students have a lot of requirements. On the surface, professional musicians are looked like just playing on stage and receive applause. For example, if a professional musician has planned to play music for public, he or she might practice the music more than hundred times, at least. But, I think the example is just for in case of the professional musicians not for students. As you might know students can practice a lot more than professional musicians. But, they don't exactly know how to practice in right way, how to play on stage well and a lot of information about music. That is why we are still studying in school and that is the reason why I decided to go Brevard Summer Festival. In the festival, I had had some plan to learn some musical information, violin technique, musical ideas and to get communication with musicians. First, I practiced regularly. Every morning I had practiced 1 hour and then go to have breakfast. On afternoon, I had rehearsal with orchestra every day to perform every end of a week. Right after the rehearsal, I go to practice again or took lesson from professors. Secondly, I made performance for audience myself. Normally, the Festival manager didn't recommend playing solo music. But, I personally thought it could be really great experience for me. Third, I made some communication with some professors and music-major students. Fourthly, at the beginning of this festival, I looked through 2012 Brevard Summer Festival pamphlets to choose some great performance in 2012 season in Brevard and bought some tickets to watch the performance.

When it comes to being professional musician, regular practicing is essential. However, during school semester, I couldn't practice every day regularly in my school. Because I need to take a lot of subjects for general class not my major-related class in my university. During the festival for one and half month, I could truly concentrate on my practice. Practicing is sort of programs in Brevard, every students need to practice 3hours and need to rehearse orchestra music with professors regularly. From orchestra rehearsal, we had played with William Pruecil who is concert master of Cleveland Orchestra which is one a great orchestra in the U.S. Even I really wanted to take lesson from him, but I could get a chance because he is so busy. His bowing was really fantastic, his sound was really unique and his interpretation for orchestra music was outstanding. He has perfect rhythmic music which is one a hard and challenging for music students.

Something that I got from the rule is that I just stayed in Brevard with the programs but, it makes me be able to have a lot repertory as much as I did in my school. Of course, having a lot of repertories doesn't mean he or she is great musician, I would like to say that studying a lot of different period of music is great studying for music major students.

Moreover, I really had tried to make my own performances. From applying concerto competition to playing solo music for publics and children, I had made a lot of programs to achieve my goal in Brevard. The concerto competition was really competitive. Among four hundred students, the judges just choose 20student in first round. After the first round, the selected students played on stage. Finally, a special professor who is invited for this competition chooses 5 students. Then they could play with orchestra. Before I do the competition, I couldn't expect what I could get from the competition. I just concentrated on the competition to be winner. Unfortunately, I was eliminated from the first round. However, I could watch every round that talented students play on. I could learn not only their playing style, the way making music but also their attitude toward music. I personally think music is not made by practicing a lot. We need to experience different style of playing violin and various types of musicians so that I can get a lot of different perspectives toward music.

I got plan to make communication with talented students so that I can share musical ideas and thinking with them. We sometimes hung out by playing quartet and by reading a new music together. We could share our ideas about music. Sometimes, we talked about how to practice all night. I just believe that I practice exactly and precisely. I have practice every day in the way that practicing homework whatever my professor give to me and re-writing to make sure what I learned from the lesson. But, after I talked with them, I realized I didn't practice precisely. They have practiced every day in the way that recording her playing and lesson every time and checking the recording every day to double-check what she did wrong. By recording my performance, I could get objective perspectives to my playing. And we talked about our future. Generally, we could be orchestra players, solo players and professors or music teacher. They said 'when I choose my future and try to find the way to go the future, I am already there.' I was really impressed from what they were saying. I think I need to find what I really want to be.

In conclusion, I have been learning a lot in Brevard Festival. From studying various techniques and way to play violin to learning how to find my future job and what I would like to be, it was one of the most valuable experience that I have ever done before. I really appreciate for the Summer Research and Creativity Grants. If I didn't get this opportunity, I couldn't get this precious and fantastic summer. Thank you again.