

My Dream Career Essay

By William Li

My heart is anxiously beating out of my chest as I walk across the stage. With each step it seems to crescendo. As I place my fingers on the keys, I start to play. It was the international LA Liszt Competition. Months of practice leading up to this one moment, competing against other pianists for the first prize. My greatest talent and passion is being a classical musician. Ever since I was seven, I have crafted my love for music through playing the piano.

Taking command over 88 keys involves more than just sight reading and mechanically following a score full of notes. Even when a musician has reached a level of technical mastery at the keyboard, it requires tremendous patience and diligence to develop one's musicality to bring life to a composition. I've played for countless duos, quartets, and chamber music groups. Over time, I have concluded that what allows a group to perform in sync together, to achieve a shared outcome is not determined by a single musician's talent, but instead the listening, cooperation and bonding between each musician and as a unified group is essential.

I exercise my talents through performing. I have performed at the Nixon Library, The Colburn School, Cal State University of Long Beach, Louisiana State University, and many other venues. What I enjoy the most is performing recitals for intimate groups of people so that I am able to interact and bond directly with the people. This gives me satisfaction since it lets me share my passion for music with people who may not always have access to be able to attend concerts.

Being a musician defines who I am as a person and having the ability to pursue this path is incredibly rewarding. I cannot imagine doing anything else.