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Eight Ten

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“Eight Ten”

Over this semester, I got a little taste of the process that musical composers go through. I thought that writing a song on the piano was beyond my limit and I didn't fully anticipate how difficult composing a song would be. I grew up playing piano and listening to music and I wrote little songs here and there, but never anything substantial. However, my knowledge of theory in piano music, years of playing the piano, and further knowledge through this course were significantly beneficial to my overall composing process.

As *The World of Music* points out in the second chapter, music is a way of expression and can be heard through different emotional lenses. The emotion that I wanted to express in my song is joy, however, the way one individual listens to and perceives a certain song can differ from someone else's. That is the beauty of music- it can convey a multitude of different emotions depending on the individual and context. That is what I hope my song will bring to listeners.

In terms of structure, my song uses a similar format of verse-chorus form in the key of G. The parts included in my song are intro, chorus, verse, chorus, ending, respectively. In terms of the texture of the song, it somewhere between thick and thin. I feel that it is a less dense texture because I wanted to portray a more simplistic sound to my piece.

The introduction of the song is in the very soft dynamic of pianissimo, with hands set an octave (8 notes to the right) of the middle C key. At this point, the chord pattern that will be used throughout the song begins. I want to use the same left hand chords to symbolize a steady foundations to the song. These chords are also significant because it symbolizes a foundation in

my own life that will be addressed later on. As the song progresses, there is a wider range of both high and low registers as well as an increase in loudness and intensity until the ending section.

After the introduction of the song, the chorus is played which is the main portion of the song and is the only part that is repeated. I actually created the chorus before I developed the rest of my song. The first time the chorus is played it is much quieter than the second time to indicate a change or climax. The ending portion of the song is meant to bring all of the pieces of the song back together as one with a slower tempo and decrescendo from the last time the chorus is played.

The reason why I wanted to compose a piece of music is because I have a big passion as well as appreciation for music itself and the creativity aspect of composing. It was a challenge that I had attempted to take on many times, but failed for reasons such as time and/ or effort. I associate music with different events in my life which is why I wanted to create a song as a reminder for one of the most difficult and joyous events in my life. The title of my song is “Eight Ten.” I chose this title because of the faith that I have in Jesus Christ. My faith is one of the most important aspects of my life. It affects and influences the other areas in my life. Nehemiah 8:10, found in the Christian Bible, states “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” This verse has had a major impact in my life especially during my freshman year of college.

College has been one of the most joyous years in my life and I don't say that lightly. Before my freshman year of high school in 2011, my grandfather, father, and grandmother passed away within the same year. I was also transitioning to a new high school and moving away from the town that I called home for 14 years. Everything had changed. It was as though I was transitioning to college, but four years prior. It was hard to comprehend all of those events at the time and even a couple years afterwards. It was also hard for me to express what I was

feeling even to my closest friends, even my mom. Trust was hard for me and that's hard to admit because throughout high school it was easy for me to pretend that I had it all together. The events of 2011 numbed me. I still had my faith to fall back on which protected me from major psychosocial, mental, and emotional damage, but it was almost as if my faith had fallen asleep-as if I had fallen asleep. I was in need of a great awakening.

It wasn't until I came to college where I experienced that awakening, found the source of true, and developed an authentic community that I was able to fully trust. I was able to grasp an understanding of the last four years. I found myself being able to have true joy in my faith in Christ as well as in the community that I am surrounded by in college. I remember the first time I sat down at the piano to start brainstorming for my song and thinking about the emotion that I wanted to portray to my audience. And the first word that came to my mind was joy. It represents not only the joy I had in writing this song or finally accomplishing a goal, but the source of where all of my joy comes from.

Works Cited

Willoughby, David. New York City: McGraw-Hill Education, 2012. *McGraw-Hill Connect*. 2012. Web. 06Dec. 2016.