



Music

Shu Ting T.



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Author's Preface

I wrote this zine about music because it such an important aspect of my life. Whether it's listening to music, performing or learning new music, music something I could never escape, but I also use it to help me escape from the world. It has made me very happy at times and sad at others. Music has helped me through alot. We all know that there are the sporty popular kids and also the dorky music kids at school. I wrote this zine to show my perspective of what it's like to be the music kid and that the labels you get at school are just stereotypes. Such as, everyone can benefit from music (*you can read about that on my Top 10 and Original Q&A*)! Writing this zine has really broaden my understand of how others view music. I learned that the way people listen to music has really changed: it's now more or less of listening digitally with headphones then from listening live in concert. I also wanted this zine to teach others of how difficult it actually is to become musician. It might look easy when someone belts out a tune but behind it are many hours of hard work.



Personal Narrative

"Play a song for us Shu Ting!" I sigh and relentlessly hop on the piano stool and render the familiar tune of Fur Elise for the slowly gathering crowd of fellow third graders.

"Wow, you make it look so easy!" Sami shouted. I grin to myself. Do they ever wonder what is behind the music? Do they know how much effort and time I put into perfecting this two minute piece?

The bell rings as I wrap up my song. The audience gives a round of applause as I quickly scurry off of the piano, never getting used to all the attention.

I grab my backpack and head out the school along with my classmates. I spot my mom out on the playground where she usually waits for me.

"I am very proud of you." I stare at my mom, astonished by the words that just came out of my her mouth. She's never said that before.

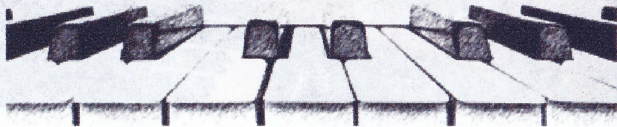
"Um, how come?" I asked half terrified, half eager to know the answer.

"You won the gold medal for the Royal Conservatory of Music!" she exclaimed. I burst into laughter.

"Good one Mom, that's a knee slapper." I say as I wipe tears of laughter away from my eyes. As my vision cleared I realized that the expression on my mom's face was genuine. My heart skips a beat. Or maybe five. I don't know, I don't remember. All I could think of was that I finally did it.

I picture myself from a month ago; labouring the same melody for hours and hours, not allowing myself off of the piano until I mastered it. To this day, I still dwell upon the thought of my mother's frustration and the countless times she would get mad at me for not paying attention to every detail or just playing one little note wrong. I remember the many nights I went to bed disheartened and irritated. I still recall the dread and anxiety of Saturday piano lessons; you see, my piano teacher has the same mindset as my mom. They aren't one of those people who only encourage you to do your best. They believe that there are no limits and that you can always do better. That's why I'm terrified of letting them down.

But now I realize, I don't want to let myself down either. I'm not just doing this for my teacher and my mom, I'm doing it for myself. People don't know how much energy I put into my music but they don't have to. At the end of the day, I know that it was all worth it and I am proud of myself.



Poetic Pieces

[This poem isn't really about music but rather the struggles and pressures of fitting in, whether you're a teen, or a celebrity (singer). I chose to write a poem on this topic because music always helped me through these difficult times.]

Do you know what it is like to be different?
To be outcasted and have that strange accent?

Maybe you know what it is like to be the same.
To be accepted, but knowing that you're lame.

Perhaps it is all an aberration,
built upon our past education

Why are our looks and personalities a deciding factor,
when equality says that each and every person matters?

When we are born, we are told we are perfect the way we are.
Yet, as we age, our ideas and beliefs are labeled bizarre.

Why are we divided in society,
when we all come from the same ancestry?

We aren't different, and we aren't the same.
We don't need fame, or have to be ashamed.

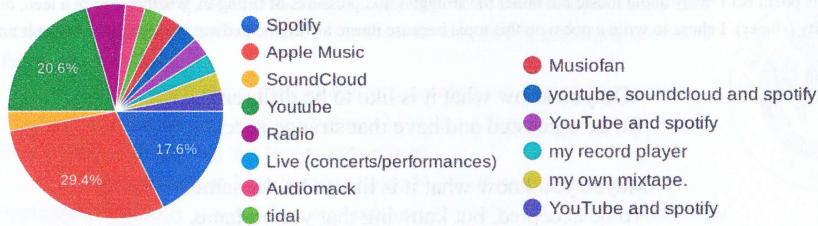
We just want to be free,
for that I think we all agree.

Memories
Understand
Singing without Words
Inspire
Compose

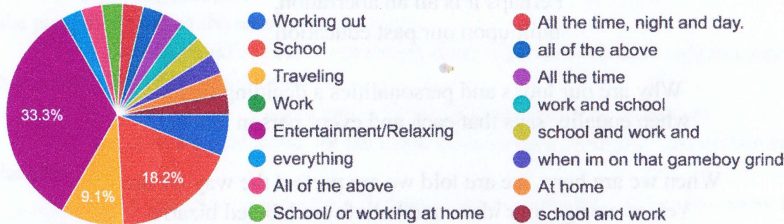


Original Q&A

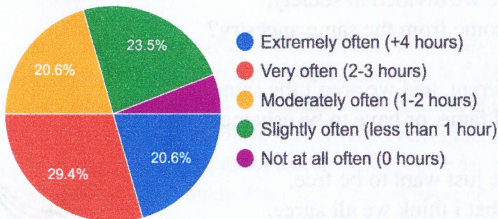
Where do you listen to music the most?



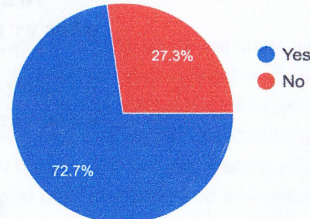
When do you usually listen to music?



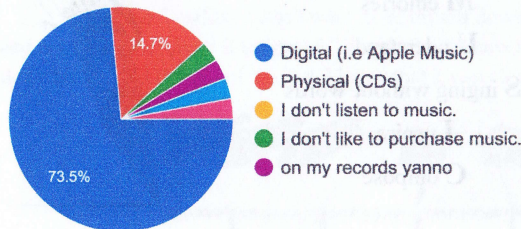
How often do you listen to music daily?



Can you play an instrument?



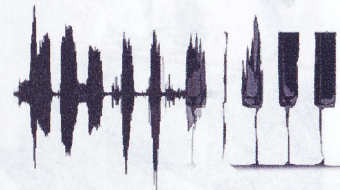
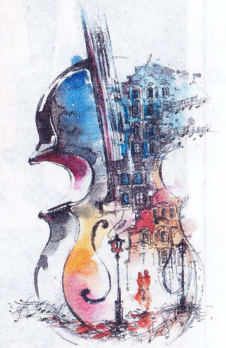
Do you prefer to purchase music in a digital or physical format?



Nonfiction Piece - What it Takes to Become a Musician

We are told that it takes 10 000 hours to become an expert in a field. Based off my personal experiences, music's definitely one of those fields. Becoming a professional pianist requires lots of time, hard work, money, determination, as well as *love*, discipline, perseverance, creativity, and confidence to perform in public.

Most aspiring (professional) pianists start studying at a young age. That means at least 1 hour of practice each day, *plus* music theory, and ear training. These practices usually consists of many different pieces of music and drilling of scales. As you get older (for example, at highschool level), the practice time will increase to about 2½ hours of practise per day and increasingly difficult music theory such as advanced rudiments and musical history will be made mandatory if you want to pass that level. At the end of end level, you must go to an exam. These exams costs at least \$100 to get in and the price will increase as you get into higher levels. If you fail an exam, you *must* redo it to advance to the next level.



As a professional pianist, you must practice on a regular bases and have polished pieces ready for auditions. Participating in recitals, orchestras, and other ensembles can really help students grow as musicians and prepare for formal training.

To broaden a pianist's network and increase visibility, the pianist should perform at venues/in public or work in a studio as often as possible.

As a professional pianist, you'll most likely need a bachelor's or master's degree in music and a strong network of contacts and agents. A pianist's salary ranges from \$20 000 to \$125 000 per year.





Movie Musicals

Have you ever wanted to just get in a jolly and cheerful mood? A movie musical is what you need! Here, I've rounded up the 15 most iconic (to my opinion) musicals that you *have* to see at some point in your life. Whether it's during Christmas, or a family movie night, these movies will get you hooked with the singing, dancing and sheer absurdity of breaking into song at completely random times!

Romance:

- La La Land
- Beauty and the Beast

New and Popular:

- Mama Mia
- The Greatest showman

Oldies:

- Phantom of the Opera
- The Sound of Music

Kids and Family:

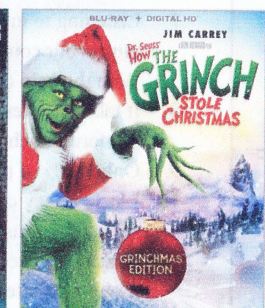
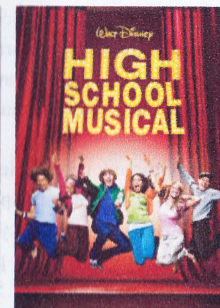
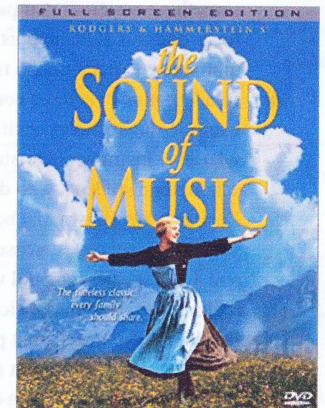
- Frozen
- Mary Poppins
- High School Musical
- Wizard of Oz

Classics:

- Grease
- Hairspray
- West Side Story
- Singin' in the Rain

Christmas:

- White Christmas
- Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

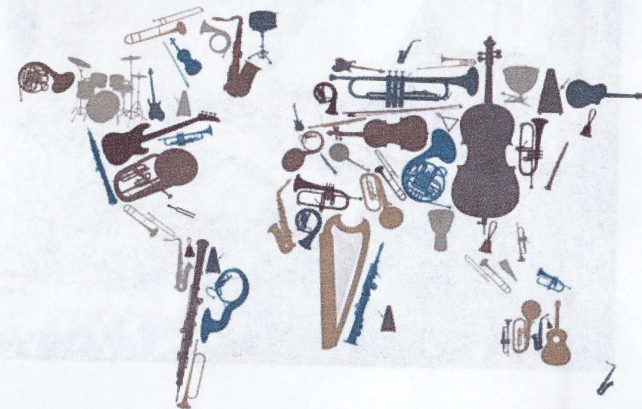


Top 10 List of Surprising, Unusual, or Important Facts

1. It is a well-proven fact that loud music increases the speed of drinking and the amount of alcohol intake at the bar.
2. Music is a form of therapy: Music is the best exercise for the brain and activates every part of the brain. Music therapy is being used from last so many years to treat different neurological conditions and it has proved to be very helpful. It is widely used to help patients with Parkinson and Alzheimer as well as help patients fight depression and anxiety.
3. You learn better with music: Music greatly impacts and boosts our learning capabilities. Listening to music, while reading or learning something could make learning or memorizing something easier, as compared to be in complete silence. It helps us to attain concentration and focus and this state help us to process and learn more information than usual. It helps you to motivate and perform the task more efficiently.
4. Reading music requires counting notes and rhythms and can help your math skills. Also, learning music theory includes many mathematical aspects. Studies have shown that students who play instruments or study the arts are often better in math and achieve higher grades in school than students who don't.
5. Research has shown that both listening to music and playing a musical instrument stimulate your brain and can increase your memory. A study was done in which 32 children from age 3 and 4 and a half years old were given either singing lessons or keyboard lessons. A group of 15 children received no music music lessons at all. Both groups participated in the same preschool activities. The results that preschoolers who has weekly keyboard lessons improved their spatial temporal skills 34 percent more than the other children.
6. Playing an instrument can enhance your coordination: The art of playing an instrument requires a lot of hand-eye coordination. By reading musical notes on a page, your brain subconsciously must convert that note into specific motor patterns while also adding breathing and rhythm to the mix.
7. Listening to music while exercising can improve your performance: When we are listening to music, our consciousness doesn't feel pain, tiredness or discomfort during the training process. With the help of music, our feeling of too much effort is significantly reduced.
8. It takes an average of 220 streams for an independents artist to make \$1 on major streaming platforms such as Spotify.
9. Only 9.3% of people nominated in the last six Grammy ceremonies were women.
10. Music piracy costs the industry about \$12.5 billion annually. Despite the growing popularity of streaming, music piracy is bigger than ever. Muso's Annual Piracy Report found that music piracy grew nearly 15% in 2017, with 73.9 billion visits to music piracy sites worldwide. The RIAA estimates that piracy leads to an annual loss of around \$12.5 billion and over \$400 million in taxes.

Information Sources

Author's name	Article or webpage title	Book or magazine title or website name	Date of publication	Name of the publisher or person/company responsible for publishing the website
Elizabeth Landau	This is your brain on music	cnn.com	Jan. 23, 2018	CNN
The account username is "topfactslist"	Top 10 Amazing facts on Music	topfactslist.com	Mar. 10, 2018	Top Facts List
Michael Matthews	8 Benefits of Playing an Instrument	effectivemusicteaching.com	Aug. 28, 2011	Effective Music Teaching
Jill Suttie	Five Ways Music can Make Healthier	greatergoodmagazine.berkeley	Jan. 20, 2015	Greater Good Magazine
Graham Corrigan	15 Music Facts that will Blow your Mind	pigeonsandplanes.com	May 8, 2018	Pigeons and Planes



Author's Bio



Shu Ting Tia is sixteen years old, and is a grade ten student attending Dartmouth High School. She was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but grew up in Dartmouth. Shu Ting lives with her mother and father who are both Chinese, and her brother, who is Chinese-Canadian as herself. Shu Ting is very passionate about music and has been studying piano since the age of five. She has since learned the violin, viola, and clarinet. She enjoys learning, listening, and performing music for others in her free time. When she is not focused on music, you can find her outdoors with her Canon camera. Shu Ting puts her education first and aspires to be a doctor or accountant one day.

