

In general, I consider myself a very creative person. For as long as I can remember, I have always had my hands in something that allowed me to perform or express myself. From a very young age, gaining genuine interest in elementary school, I have been interested in music. I was always in choir, and I played cello and viola for a few years in junior high. But, it was vocal music that I used as my first serious vehicle of creative expression. I began small, singing my part in the school choirs. Eventually, vocal lessons were offered, and I competed and placed in state choirs. In high school, I was section leader every year, and took great initiative in choral music and vocal pedagogy. I took advanced classes in music theory, and was a teacher's assistant to the choral director. In my senior year, I gave voice lessons to the underclassmen, took voice lessons myself, and had won the 'choral director's award'- the highest scholarship earned by a graduating musician. I was accepted to the acclaimed Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and began my college journey as a Music Education major. I did well in my first two semesters, but I was rather uncomfortable at Westminster. Between professors that didn't encourage success and colleagues that constantly thought they were better than others, my Westminster experience came to an end after the first semester of my sophomore year.

Though sad to basically abandon my love of vocal music, and turn my back on the several once in a lifetime opportunities that came with being a student at such an elite school, a transfer of major and campus was what I needed to stay on track. Art had always been another passion of mine, but it had always taken the back burner to music. With much encouragement from my Grandfather, who taught me a lot of what I knew about art on a technical level, I moved to the Lawrenceville campus of Rider University. The Fine Arts department at Rider left much to be desired, but some of the professors really lent themselves to helping dedicated students be successful. Among other professors, I took great interest in Harry I. Naar, and over my time at Rider, he became the mentor I needed to develop my style as an artist. Many long hours were spent in my space in the studio, and much research was done to understand what I wanted to represent as an individual artist. I finally defined a fundamental style of 'illustrative'. I enjoyed observing things and appreciating them for their simplified shape and colors. I also enjoyed illustrating in a more traditional sense- drawing characters for children's books. Along with working on my own book, which had always been a dream of mine to execute, I was approached and asked to illustrate for a few side projects. By the end of my senior year, I knew what it was that I loved about art, what I wasn't so fond of, and who, at least for now, who I wanted to be as my own artist. But there is more to me than music and art.

As mentioned, I have always been interested in anything that allowed me to be creative or express myself. I consider myself a skilled and knowledgeable photographer and I have won a handful of state-level photography competitions. I enjoy taking pictures of interior spaces, plants and animals, and have even been asked to photograph a few important life events for friends and family. Also, I excel at most 'crafts', including but not limited to handmade cards, embroidery, sewing, jewelry making, needle felting, knitting, interior design, sculpture, wood burning and crafting, product redesign, and event planning. I also enjoy baking various desserts and pastries, decorating cakes, and exploring flavor combinations in cooking. Put simply, when it comes to being creative, I have yet to meet something that I do not enjoy and succeed at, and I am very eager to get my hands into anything new or spend time perfecting an older creative talent. Aside from crafting, I have a genuine love of other people and their happiness. After spending the last three years at a retail chain, I have found that I love dealing with the public, and helping people have happy experiences.

Ideally, I would love to be an illustrator, crafter, or photographer working for someone or someplace that needs a well-rounded, eager and creative person on staff. While I know that finding such a perfect job is a little unlikely, it is everyone's dream to get paid to do what they love. More realistically, I could see myself utilizing the skills I have learned in my experiences with customer service, my broad education of art, photography, and crafting, and my general creative tendencies and spirit to become, simply, a great addition to any team.

When I think about who I am, it is abundantly clear: I am successfully imaginative, innovative and resourceful, an enthusiastic and fast learner, and very well rounded. There is much more to me than my artwork and the diploma I've earned; and I hope I will always continue to find new ways of expressing myself.