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WORLDVENTURE

**Vienna Trip**

Sickness is never fun, but when it interferes with a trip, it can be frustrating. Seth, a BFA student, was on the Vienna Honor Choir trip and became sick on the second night there.

Despite missing several rehearsals and a performance, he had a good attitude. I was a chaperone, and during my extra time at the hotel I had been meditating on Philippians 4:11-13. This student exemplified someone who knows how to be content in any situation. Christ was his strength through sickness, so the missed time with the choir wasn't devastating to him.

The trip turned out to be a good experience for all, despite sickness.



*Honor Choir group ^*

*▼ Jessi at Music Festival*



**Stage fright to Performer**

Jessi, a Junior and new to BFA this year, began playing cello when she was a young girl in Paris. In her studies under a professional cellist, she developed amazing tone and solid technique, although she was always shy about performing.

This year, we made it a goal to become more comfortable performing. With the small size of the orchestra, she has grown accustomed to playing almost as a soloist but with the help of a small group of musicians around her. Midway through the year, she was asked to perform a solo with the choir; she played without fear.

At Music Festival, she performed well and was chosen for the Honors Recital, in which she played the famous Bach G Major Prelude all alone on the stage with her cello. Though I could tell she was nervous, most people in the audience simply reveled in the rich tones of the wonderful instrument.

Shortly thereafter, she was asked one afternoon to perform a solo with choir at a memorial service that night. Without hesitating, she agreed to do it. She said to me, 'You know those days when you just love to play the cello?' Yep, I sure do. And I love listening to her play the cello – even on stage!

### Currently Reading:

- *The Lieutenant* by Kate Grenville
- *Der Riskante Ritt* from *Die drei ???*
- *The Courage to Teach* by Parker J. Palmer
- *Cinderella* (German version)
- The Bible

### Currently Playing:

#### Violin Works:

- *The Lark Ascending* by R. Vaughan Williams
- *G Major Sonata* by L. van Beethoven
- *A minor Partita* by J.S. Bach

### Ascent

Last week, I played *The Lark Ascending* for a Staff Recital. Our whole recital was in honor of Mari Ellen Reeser, a BFA counselor who passed away on Easter Sunday, ascending to Heaven.

The *Lark* is evocative of not only birds, but rising and soaring emotions. After the recital, some people came up to me and said the piece made them weep – a healing kind of weeping.

Music, especially violin music, ‘gives wings to the mind and flight to the imagination’ (Plato). In this case, the music allowed my soul to express a depth of emotion that words cannot. Those listening were also uplifted and carried to a place beyond.

Sometimes I pray through my music, and others around me also participate in that somehow.

This recital reminded me why I’m here teaching the students music. They are discovering voices for their deepest emotions. They are learning the language of the human heart. It may not seem like much in the day-to-day tuning and correcting of rhythm, but once in a while we glimpse the power of music in expression of the deepest longing and groaning of the spirit.



### Expression in Song

In Guitar Class we recently completed a song-writing project. I’m amazed at the kids’ creativity! When we started the project, almost all of them protested, ‘My voice is terrible!’ or ‘I don’t know how to write a song!’ but they all dove in and, with various amounts of prodding and guidance, they all ended up with a song of their own.

The words were hardest, so I allowed them to borrow lyrics from a Bible verse, song or a poem. Even so, these words became their own, a carefully selected grouping of phrases to express something of what made them tick, what made them who they are. I am privileged to see these students for who they are!

### Prayer Corner

#### Please pray for....

- Support for next year
- Energy and focus for the rest of the year
- Spring Concert
- Travel plans for the summer

#### Praises:

- A restful Spring Break
- Vibrant colors of Spring all around
- Student growth and progress
- The gift of music

### What’s Up Ahead

- May 3 – Senior Transition Day
- May 4 – Junior/Senior Banquet
- May 8 – Staff Appreciation Dinner
- May 12 – Trip to Europa Park
- May 27 – Spring Concert
- May 29-31 – BFA Final Exams
- June 2 - Graduation