

Simple Notes

Never would I have thought that with my music, I could fulfill a dying man's dream. One day that changed. Expecting an ordinary Saturday orchestra rehearsal, our conductor, Mr. Pearson, instead handed out music that we would rehearse and then play for the composer himself. The composer had written a string orchestra piece years ago, yet never had a chance to hear it performed. Now in the last stages of ALS, he wanted to hear it performed before he passed away. Excited to play his piece and make his dream come true, I was also panicked because we had just received the piece and might not perform it well. After we practiced for about an hour, I felt confident. Then, the composer entered the room with many family members. In a wheelchair, he could not control his arms and legs, and had trouble breathing. This scene took me aback and I became more determined to play his piece well. Raising his baton, Mr. Pearson signaled for us to begin. Afterwards, the composer thanked us and told us how much it meant to him. When I was leaving, I stopped to thank the composer and told him how wonderful his piece is.

This man I had never met before and who may not even be alive now, along with the power of music, dramatically influenced the development of my character. While this was most likely a once-in-a-lifetime experience, it made me realize that even simple acts of kindness can make a difference, and these you can do every day. You never know when the opportunity will arise where a small act of caring or kindness can make a huge difference to someone we know or don't know, but when they do come, you should take advantage of them. You do not even need a special talent. A simple smile or always being open to helping people goes a long way. Just as small simple notes put together can create a beautiful piece of music, if every one of us does small acts of kindness, we will create a better world.