

Student of the Month – October 2019

shepherd-music-school.com/blog/student-of-the-month-october-2019

Broc Hite

2019-10-04



In order to better spread the word about some of the wonderful things going on at Shepherd Music School, we decided to feature one or more students each month who stand out in a particular way. This month, we're featuring two piano students of Broc Hite, KP (violin) and SG (baritone), who also both perform in the Arkansas Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. KP is in sixth grade, 12 years old; SG is in eighth grade, 13 years old. It's hard enough to do well at one instrument. So, when you're good at two, it's pretty awesome! I asked each student four questions through an email interview, which are presented below.

Question: Tell me something about how you decided to play [violin | baritone].

KP: When I was 9, I listened to a lot of Lindsey Stirling music. I went to one of her concerts and was inspired to try out the violin for myself. It was also said to be a very difficult instrument, and I was always up for a challenge.

SG: I knew I wanted to be a low brass [player]. Tuba wasn't available at the time, and I didn't want to have a long slide.

Question: What differences and/or similarities do you find between your two instruments?

KP: Violin and piano have many similarities and differences. They both take a lot of hard work, and you can't just expect not to practice if you want to be good. They are both written and played in the same [treble] clef, although piano also plays bass [clef]. Violin has different fingerings and techniques, but uses similar ones you play in piano.

SG: Piano usually has the melody, baritone has the beat.

Question: What would you say to a kid who has studied a solo instrument, like piano or guitar, who wants to learn an ensemble instrument. What have you learned that might be helpful?

KP: What I've learned from playing solo piano to playing violin in an orchestra is that you need to listen to others. You may think you know your part, but it sounds foreign when played with others. My advice is listen to the music, practice your part, and listen to the others around you. Even if you get lost, there is always someone else playing your part.

SG: You have to listen and tune to the other instruments.

Question: What do you like about each instrument you play?

KP: I love how expressive the violin is. There are so many different emotions you can portray, and it is incredibly fun to experiment with that. With piano, I love how solo it is. You control the tempo and how loud or soft you play. In an orchestra, you have to be on the same page, but with piano, you can play how you want.

SG: I like how air controls how you play [on the baritone], not your fingers.



SG and KP at Shepherd Music School

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