

Victoria Rogers

5/28/10

ASTA Essay

My first year as a music education major at the Crane School of Music has passed by at an incredible speed. It's almost hard for me to believe that I am already a second year college student, and before I know it, will have my very own classroom full of students to teach. Before going to Crane, I knew that it was a place which would not only teach me to become a better instrumentalist, but also instill in me the abilities to become a great music teacher. Through this entire first year, each course has made an impression on not only my mind, but my musical skills as well. I have already learned many new things about music in general and also its application to the violin and the other new instruments I learned to play. Through classes, weekly concerts, and interactions with professors, I have easily begun to settle into the life of a music major, and look forward to enjoying the rest of my years at Crane.

If I had to give advice to anybody considering pursuing a career in Music education, my number one caution would be to make sure there is nothing you enjoy more, or have more of a passion for than music and teaching. I have witnessed a handful of first year students give up halfway through the semester because of the pressures that music ed courses puts on every student. Make sure to look at the big picture beforehand, and know what exactly you are getting yourself into. Be willing to learn how to play and teach other instruments in addition to your primary, and also be willing to work in all areas of music anywhere and any chance you get. One person who has been a big inspiration to me at Crane is Professor Kenneth Andrews, the orchestral and chamber music director. At each rehearsal and concert, Professor Andrews motivates us by reminding us all to think about what we would say to our own students in certain situations, and to remember that the key to being a successful music teacher is having the passion for it. Without passion, you are not expecting all you can from your students and pushing them to their best, and you are not being fair to those who want to learn from you.

Getting the chance to interact with people who share the same musical interests as you is one of the greatest things about majoring in music. Having the majority of your classes based on music every day is also exciting, and makes it much easier to push through the difficult and stressful times during the semester. With all the stress's and hard work put on every music student, I have already learned to appreciate each class and to look at what I can gain in experience and knowledge from every course I take. I eagerly look forward to my future at my school and I know that no matter the statistics of Crane being an outstanding school for music education, the results of how it affects and builds me into a great teacher are in my hands and all in my control.