**What excites you? (250-300 words)**

Unlike others who pay attention to the plot of Jurassic Park, I was drawn to the music that John Williams incorporated in the scene of “Welcome to Jurassic Park.” From the dark horns that symbolize large dinosaurs to the voice of the piccolo that reminds us of the serene nature, I was excited to examine every single detail of the score.

Analyzing music scores beforehand feels like a treasure hunt to me as I try to find the hidden meaning behind the piece. As a pianist, studying music scores is a way to respond to the piece the composer has created: my own emotional acknowledgment towards it. If the music is delivering a contemptuous tone, I’ll respond with strong dynamics and lyrical melodies.

In my orchestra group, I directed and played my own rendition of pieces such as John Williams’ Harry Potter score. Examining the score beforehand, I found the violin symbolizes hope and innocence while the cello means darkness and danger. Being obsessed with the movies myself, I watched numerous scenes multiple times and noticed tiny details such as the sound of the triangle when a glimmer of magic was cast from wands. With that, I added more instruments and backing melodies compared to the original piece to give my own touch towards the piece.

I continued my passion to explore music beyond its role in entertainment. This was when I connected the dots between the two areas I love the most: music and psychology. In high school, my piano teacher and I started a psychological therapy project where we would play calming pieces at various mental institutions around Jakarta. I look forward to study the scientific concepts of music therapy and further develop positive impacts on healing psychological disorders at Dartmouth.

Hi Priyaanka,

Overall, I think this is great. I can really tell that music really excites you and you elaborated it well. ☺

I only edited a few words to hopefully help show your excitement towards it more.

All the best! ☺