

The Swells of Music

by Kailey Wong

The wind quietly whistles through the open window. Steadily placing my hands over the smooth white keys, I take a deep breath, then begin. My fingers glide across the keys like ripples on a glassy pond as I execute scales, chords, and arpeggios. But this is only a warm-up.

I close my eyes and suddenly I am lost in the hauntingly beautiful introduction of Chopin's Winter Wind Etude. The deep rumbling of the bass resonates in my heart as the rapid, tumultuous lines of the accompaniment rush by. The piece culminates with a series of powerful chords, a sweeping scale, and finally, one lone, tinkling note. In the aftermath of my passionate performance, silence echoes throughout the room.

Music provides me with an outlet to express my creativity and de-stress. Under the patient guidance of my piano teacher, I have learned to draw elegant melodies from the keys and imbue them with emotions to make them my own. Staying in tune with my artistic expression allows me to excel in not just logical problem solving, but also creative problem-solving. Often, a burst of inspiration hits while I am immersed in shaping a beautiful melody. Although my instrumental studies of piano and violin have not always been easy, they have taught me perseverance, dedication, and creativity. Learning and perfectly performing a piece is never easy, but my pride and sense of accomplishment are always invigorating.

As life becomes more difficult to navigate, it is a rare occurrence for me to find even a moment to relax. In the chaos of life, I sometimes take a moment to sit down, play a piece, and simply feel. Music is an integral part of my identity and one of my strongest anchors during difficult times. Comforting melodies constantly float through my mind, lulling me to sleep at

night or calming me before a difficult test. Whenever my fingers dance across the polished keys of a piano or draw out a soaring melody from the strings of my violin, I am filled with the blissful peace that only music can provide.