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Masters of Science in Mathematics

By the middle of the senior year of high school, I was very confident that I would spent most of my career as some form of professional musician. Although I was only moderately proficient in guitar performance and studio recording, I was strong at music theory and composition for my age despite no formal education. My ego was fed through my status as the lead guitarist in a garage-band and constant awards and appraisals from my high school peers and music directors- but disillusions can only last for so long. As I began to expose myself to more serious musicians, it became apparent that a career in the music industry was not a practical choice for someone like me.

In the fall of 2017 I was enrolled in the Physics Department at the University of New Hampshire, and it became more and more clear that perhaps a career in STEM was far more viable, and something that I enjoyed just as much. I began my first research project in the UNH physics department, and soon I started making more time for the school work and less time for the guitar. While I still remained involved with some music ensembles, and wrote for a Capella groups on the side, I could feel this large part of me sort of slipping away. Music was more than just something I did, it had become my identity, and it was evolving. Garage band rehearsals were now late nights programming for research meetings, scale and arpeggios became black-board exercises, and guitar-lessons became lecture halls. Something that I had previously devoted by life to was just becoming a piece of the past.