**Auto Encomia – Raymond Shiner**

My name is Raymond Shiner. Now in my third year of college, people have told me that I am very bright and intelligent, especially considering I am only nineteen years old. Achieving and maintaining a healthy GPA of 3.85 while working a part-time job at a restaurant is not easy; this is why I must continue to strive and persevere every day, although college is made slightly easier by the academic scholarships I have received. Currently at Eastern Washington University double majoring in both Philosophy and Communications, I am learning as much as I can in hopes of one day becoming a professor. With a vast amount of experience in public speaking and performing, I have been told by both my superiors and peers that I would be a good professor. This flatters me and encourages me, because I am very passionate about becoming a professor at a university in the future.

I have a great passion and knack at random skills such as Yo-yos and magic tricks. Being a magician for the last six years, I have been paid to perform my magic and other skills such as solving a Rubik’s cube in twenty seconds. Performing my hobbies and teaching them to other people who want to learn is something that I do with alacrity. While being pretty good at magic tricks, Rubik’s cubes, and things of the like, there are few things I love more than the piano. I love to play instruments and have played piano for seven years with the ability to play over fifteen instruments. Playing piano at high-end restaurants and weddings has brought me great joy, and I am honored that others appreciate my music. Students of mine enjoy learning from me in private lessons; I try my very best to teach piano and other instruments in a way that students are learning and invested in bettering themselves, while having as much fun as possible.

All of my music skills as well as my work ethic and education, I credit to the excellent teaching and guidance of my parents. They raised me and homeschooled me from a young age. My father taught me to play the piano with his twenty-plus years of experience and my mother provided me with a personalized childhood education that was far better than anything I could have received from public schools in the area. But far more than this, they gave me a loving home. I am blessed to be a part of a family where I am encouraged and supported and never judged nor punished for being myself. I understand that a family as healthy as mine is a true rarity, and I am greatly humbled by my good fortune to have my mother and father as parents. They have made me into who I am today; and everything I am I owe to them and the home that they have given me for the last nineteen years.