

Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

My teacher was right when saying I had no zeal for playing the piano... I was walking slowly down the corridor of my musical school, my every step accompanied with all kinds of sounds emerging from the classrooms. I was not paying attention to them, regretful of my artless performance and lack of enthusiasm. Suddenly, my ears detected something familiar and inspiring. The sound led me to the door of our chamber hall. "You are simply the best!" – my favourite song! – as reassuring as the drum beat. In a minute I found myself sitting at the back row hypnotized by the performance of a student band. The drummer, a long-haired charismatic guy, seemed to be an organic whole with his drum set and the king of every single piece they performed. He kept his hands on the music pulse, drawing the listener inside the rhythm. When I came round by the end of the rehearsal, I felt a totally different person as I had just discovered my true passion.

Since then I have taken every effort to explore the percussion universe. The very next day I came before the drumming teacher with a firm intention to study. Unlike my previous musical experience, I started advancing in a tremendous pace, practicing daily both at school and at home, listening to the records of famous drummers, copying their style and creating my own. Carried away with the rhythm, I put all my heart and energy into it and got merged into the music I played.

Soon, I overgrew the limits of this solo performance striving to develop as a part of a rock band. Aware of numerous responsibilities and obstacles, I embarked on a risky and exciting venture of creating my own group. Through intense promotion and persuasion, I managed to engage four of my schoolmates into the band and found a teacher to support and supervise us. We used to practice in empty classrooms until the watchman let us out, sometimes – in my flat or in my father's garage. The new songs came easily as a result of mutual dreams and aspirations to convey our love for music and brighten the world around us.

After a long and tireless practice, we ventured to present our art to the public. As we proceeded through the concert, our worries and fears vanished, yielding to inspiration and joy. And we did it! The audience was conquered! Since then, we have been performing regularly, participating in community concerts, regional and state music festivals, charity events and international workshops sharing our love for music with the others. Now I feel grateful to my piano teacher who unintentionally helped me to discover my drumming passion and drew me into the exciting world of performing art, self-expression and unity.