

## UCF Personal Statement

*“Music expresses feeling and thought, without language; it was below and before speech, and it is above and beyond all words.”*

*...Robert G. Ingersoll*

In the seventh grade I developed a passion for the art form of percussion. Since the first day that I picked up sticks and started to play, I have known that this is the world to which I belong. From that moment on, I have patiently dedicated my life to music and percussion. In addition to taking private lessons weekly from a professional in the field, I have been proactive in taking other necessary steps to ensure that I have what it takes to become a professional percussionist. I have taken every opportunity to audition and perform for a variety of organizations. These groups include: The Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, the Naples Music Club Scholarship Competition, the All-County Band, and many others.

I have always considered music to be one of the absolute highest art forms, and percussion is just one of the many limbs on the great tree that is music. When I ultimately realized that I wanted to transform my craft into my career, it was as if I had just started to climb this great tree. Little did I know that this tree would soon become my new home. My life now revolves around music and I love every single second of it. When I am practicing my instrument I enter a world of total solitude and harmony, the beauty of taking one thing and finely tuning it so that when all the subtle nuances emanate, the feeling is incomparable to anything else. This is what I live for each and every day.

Percussion, being a paramount force in my life, is everywhere. It is every noise that surrounds me in my daily life; it is every pulse to every living organism. For me, it cannot be stopped. This has its advantages and disadvantages; I have to find time to balance my

schoolwork and music. Many days have consisted of finishing school, completing my homework, practicing, attending my private lesson, and then returning home to practice some more. At times this proves to be very exhausting and somewhat overwhelming. However, these are the times when I know I have to keep pushing myself forward; these are the times when just giving up seems so easy, but I know that there is nothing else I would rather do with my life, and that knowledge gives me the strength and will power to accomplish anything.

You could say that music and percussion gives meaning to my life, but that would be an understatement. Music and percussion are my life. They are the very core of my being.