

The thought that life would change so drastically for me never crossed my mind. A whole new part of the world opened up to me. Music was never a strong point for me until that day in January of 2007. I never saw it coming, but thankfully it did.

*CRREEEEEEEEK*, the door to our fifth grade computer class taught by our teacher Mr. Boyer groaned as it opened and in walked Mrs. Miller. Mrs. Miller was my orchestra instructor for grades four and five, and one of my favorite teachers. *What does she want with Mr. Boyer?* The thought floated quietly in my head. Usually teachers did not come to other teachers' classrooms unless it was extremely important. So seeing Mrs. Miller walk into Mr. Boyer's classroom made me wonder what was up. My efforts to look away at my assignment that Mr. Boyer had given us were in vain. I was just too curious as to what my orchestra instructor and my computer teacher had to say to each other. It wasn't necessarily eavesdropping, but just solving curiosity.

Finally I looked back over at my two teachers. They had stopped talking to each other and Mrs. Miller started to walk over to me. *Why would she want to talk to me instead of Mr. Boyer?* The thought rang between my ears. I probed my mind for the answer but came up empty. *I mean he's a teacher; I'm a student so why would she want...* Then suddenly every little iota of curiosity was replaced with certainty. *Oh that's right! How could I possibly forget?!!* Today was the day that Mrs. Miller was to announce who had made County Orchestra. County Orchestra was an orchestra of kids from a county who had auditioned to get in. I had auditioned for our

Dauphin County Orchestra in November and it was January. I so desperately wanted to make it which made me more and more nervous by the second!

I adored the cello and Mrs. Miller had told me that I was pretty good at it. I never thought I could be good at anything that involved music, but this was my chance to prove to myself that thinking wrong!

My head felt like it was going to burst because there were so many “What if’s” and “I hope’s”. All I wanted was to make County Orchestra, and then all these thoughts could stop racing through my mind. Making County Orchestra would mean so much to me! Not only would it give me an extra self-confidence boost that I really needed, but I wanted to be good at something that I actually liked! Finally I came to the conclusion that I would just take it however I was going to and that would be it. Worrying about my feelings wasn’t really the main factor here in making it in County Orchestra or not.

After what seemed like ages, Mrs. Miller was just two steps away from me. *Oh, please let her tell me good news!* She stopped at me and mouthed some words that I couldn’t really make out. I had forgotten it at the time, but HUGE headphones were smothering my ears.

“What?” I asked

“You made County Orchestra,” she said just a little louder. The headphones kind of muffled it a little bit, but it was just loud enough that it was actually decipherable.

“WHAT?!” That wasn’t supposed to be taken as a please-repeat-yourself “WHAT” (my “WHAT” was just an interjection of disbelief) but she took it that way.

She pulled my headphones off herself and said for the last time, “You made County Orchestra. Congratulations!”

“Thanks!” I said, louder than expected. My classmates’ quizzical eyes were burning into mine because they were wondering why I had just yelled “Thanks” halfway across the room, but it didn’t bother me. Mrs. Miller walked out of the room with a grin on her face. I realized as I put my headphones back on that my mouth was gaping open. A fly could have flown in and out and I wouldn’t have noticed!

Pride and joy were radiating from my head down to my toes! Joy flooded my brain first because I was one of the top eleven cellos in the county! Pride surged through my veins just a split second later because Mrs. Miller had given me the piece three days before the audition. Practicing that piece had become a daily ritual and I would have been devastated if the news wasn’t good, but bad.

I actually made County Orchestra and I felt like I could do anything! It was like winning the keys to Cello City and being free to do anything. Making County Orchestra meant that I could do more with the cello! I wasn’t worthless! Walking out of my school that cold January day with my head and shoulders held high, was the best feeling I had ever had. *YES!* I yelled silently, and grinned.