



My name is Cheng Chu-Jun. I am 16 years old. I suffered from total blindness since birth due to genetic retinal detachment. Currently I am studying in Xindian Senior High School.

I have developed a strong interest in music at a very young age. Listening to different types of music enables me to feel the attractiveness of music, and also provides an impetus for me to play it well.

I started learning the piano at the age of 7. My teacher placed heavy emphasis in the importance of building a sound foundation right at the beginning. I was guided to experience the dynamics of hand movements in affecting sound quality of music, as well as to understand the integration of emotion into music.

When I was 11 years old, I started learning the Concertina. Besides a fixed practice timetable, my teacher also taught me various tactics to practice and led me to appreciate the exquisiteness of European Concertina.

Thinking back of my music learning process prior to primary school graduation, it was both a rewarding and interesting experience. Although the process was tough, it has improved my quality of life. It was much worth the effort when achievements were realized at every stage. Regrettably, my enthusiasm towards music was slightly tarnished by the need to reduce practicing time in order to cope with much pressure of other homework.

I have won the 5th prize in the “Xi Duofu” Piano Competition 3 years ago. Although I failed to win the top 3 prizes and therefore lost the chance to go overseas, the Competition was in fact a very valuable experience. I have realized that my practice was inadequate, and hence will strive to improve effectiveness of my practice within the time constraints.

During the summer holidays 2 years ago, my teacher introduced the Harp to me and I have consequently commenced a series of practices. The process of learning Harp was a very difficult task indeed - the prerequisite to strike accuracy with its 47 strings and the timeliness to change pedals formed the basis of beautiful melodies. Comparatively, my painful fingers seem to be a relatively minor issue.

I would like to continue my music studies, because this is my favorite activity, especially now that I have been admitted into high school music class. I hope that I will be able to perform excellent music to all in the near future with my relentless effort.