
Posted on Thu, Jul. 12, 2007

GHS Musician Makes 'Noise'

By Julie Greene
Contributing Writer

Music is in 17-year-old David Kitts' blood.

He has played the piano since second grade and played trumpet in the band from sixth through 10th grade.

Today, the Grapevine High School senior plays keyboards in three different bands, operates sound for Highland Meadows Christian Church and has set up his own small recording studio in his family's Grapevine home.

He wants to be a recording engineer one day.

It was that passion for music that led the Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation to offer Kitts a prized spot and full scholarship to its two-week summer camp "Noise!" in Los Angeles this month.

"David portrayed an extreme amount of passion for music and a drive to have a career within the industry," said Neely Vasher, business manager for the foundation. "His teacher and community recommendations were very positive." Kitts is one of 32 teens selected nationwide out of more than 100 applicants who will attend camp July 15 through 27 at California State University's Northridge campus in Los Angeles.

In its sixth year, "Noise!" offers participants the opportunity to network with music producers, managers, music critics, sound engineers and other music professionals.

"Our former campers are accomplishing many exciting things in the music industry and I'm confident that this year's campers will be no different," Vasher said.

Kitts first heard about the summer camp two years ago when he saw a flyer on the wall at school. He visited Muzak's Web site and decided to apply.

"They sent me a letter last year that said I wasn't selected but they would keep my information on file and they suggested I reapply," he recalled.

The application process alone is rigorous and took Kitts nearly three months from March to May to complete the process this year. Pursuing a career in the music industry is a natural progression for Kitts who said his interest in music began early.

"I come from a musical family," he said. His dad, Lynn, once sang with the barbershop group, Vocal Majority, and one of his two older sisters, Haley, is a jazz student at the University of Texas at Arlington. She has also played with the Howard Scott Band. .

"He's very excited about this opportunity," Lynn Kitt said.

"Music has been a big part of his life," said David's mom, Monica, "and he enjoys it, particularly the technical part."

He sees the camp as a step toward making further decisions about his future.

“I’ll get a chance to meet a lot of people already in the industry,” he said. “I’m also looking at a few colleges and think they can give me advice on the best place to go.”



Spotlight on ...

Web Posted: 07/16/2007 11:03 AM CDT

San Antonio Express-News

Joshua Aleman

Joshua Aleman is in Los Angeles this week for his first-ever visit to the city to meet and greet music industry heavy weights.

The 16-year-old South San High School junior won a scholarship to participate in Noise!, the Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation's annual summer camp held July 15-27 at the California State University-Northridge.

During the camp, Aleman will "work and visit with record label producers, artist managers, music critics, audio architects, choreographers and other music industry professionals," according to a news release.

Aleman said he heard about the camp from his uncle and decided it was a great opportunity to expand his knowledge of music.

He is a self-taught guitarist and played trumpet in the Dwight Middle School band and in high school.

He hopes to be a songwriter in the future and play in his own band.

"I kind of like playing rock and jazz mixed together," he said.

His musical tastes also include rap, along with rock and jazz.

It was the music of Jimi Hendrix that first got Aleman interested in the guitar.

"I saw a video of him playing and he inspired me to play," he said.

Michelle Mondo
