

Interview Assessment #2

Date of Interview: 10/13/2020

Professional: Levi Bradford

Audio Source:

Levi Bradford, Interview by Grant Marshall, October 13, 2020

Assessment:

As founder and CEO of Neighborhood Arts and Music School of Frisco, Texas, as well as long-time producer and band member, Levi Bradford exemplifies the idea of a “music man”. Throughout our 20 minute and 2 second interview, Levi demonstrated to me his intense passion for musical expression, and also created an idea of what a fulfilling career in music looks like. I look forward to using the incredible wisdom that our interview taught me throughout this year’s ISM journey.

Levi began his musical journey at the young age of 4, learning classical piano. Throughout his life, he transitioned from piano to percussion, and would also learn bass and eventually guitar. His evident experimentation and musical passion shows me that I should not shy away from trying new things no matter my age. During the interview process, Levi’s positive demeanor and thoughtful responses showed me that the environment he has created at Neighborhood Arts and Music School is centered around exploration and musical growth. He described creating NAMS, as “a big ship... we all jumped on it... [it was] this opportunity for us to go after our dreams” (Bradford). Levi’s motive behind NAMS, as is demonstrated in this quote, is not a monetary one. He and his friends created it to explore their musical capabilities and create careers in the part of life that they loved most. However, Levi says, “It taught us a bunch of life lessons. Not only music lessons, but lessons about ourselves, lessons about what it means to live in community, to thrive as a part of something that is [like] an ecosystem... I like being a part of something that is beyond myself” (Bradford). In saying this, he demonstrates that

NAMS brought along many welcome - although unexpected - lessons, and that he has grown as a person because of it.

This interview was incredibly motivational and inspiring. Through his own hard work and passion for the craft, Levi has constructed a healthy business, provides for his wife and newly born son, and has created an opportunity to do what he loves every single day. I cannot think of a better definition of success or fulfillment. Levi's story behind NAMS shows me that life, musical or not, is about the journey and the lessons it presents. It is important that we all make an effort to stay mindful and realize how we can learn from our experiences. My own experience at Neighborhood Arts and Music School, especially my interactions with people like Levi and Cody Sowell, have shown me that a non-traditional career path is absolutely an option, and also that the people you surround yourself with can make a huge impact on who you are as a person, as well as how you feel on a daily basis. On that note, we also must take into account how the parts of our lives, like our jobs, projects and relationships, truly make us feel, and this is an idea that I will carry with me throughout my ISM journey.