Senior Recital

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Kenny Kressin

Reflection

I began working on this recital program in January of 2019. Learning all of the repertoire for this recital took almost two years. I worked extremely hard and practiced many hours each day. COVID made me make many adjustments for my recital preparations. All my private lessons and studio classes were online, I had no audience at the final recital, and I had to learn how to properly record and edit my recital before its YouTube premier. I learned a lot through this virtual recital experience, and am so glad that I was still able to present a recital considering the circumstances.

The most difficult parts of this process consisted of staying motivated with my recital goals, working with technology, and trying to figure out how to make the whole project come together with all of the implemented COVID restrictions. As many people have learned, it is hard to stay motivated during a pandemic when everything is virtual and many practice and study facilities are not available. I had to turn my room into a practice room, and try to eliminate all of the distractions that practicing at home brings. I was also limited as to when I could practice as to not disturb my apartment neighbors too much. On top of the limited practice time, technology was not the easiest thing to work with. I am not a very tech savvy person, so I had to learn a lot quickly so that I could successfully record and edit my recital. Lastly, COVID restrictions gave me great difficulty when scheduling chamber rehearsal times and finding a piano accompanist. I asked four accompanists before one finally said yes. I made sure to make the rehearsal process as safe as possible by limiting both the number of rehearsals and rehearsal times. I also made sure to consistently wear masks and to always be six feet away from anyone.
that I performed with. Though the final product turned out well, I think that it would have been even better if these limiting COVID restrictions were not in place.

The parts I enjoyed most about this process consisted of being able to work with amazing musicians even during a pandemic, and seeing how much I had accomplished by my recital. Though COVID kept many people away from each other, I was so glad that I was able to work with remarkable musicians and accompanists before Michigan was once again shut down on November 18th, 2020. I was so lucky to get all of my recordings done before we were no longer able to use the Dalton Center. I am so glad that I have a great product to show off how much I have grown throughout my time at college. Learning a chamber piece, a complete Bach Suite, and memorizing a 40 minute concerto is no small feat. I am so proud and amazed at myself that I was able to accomplish something so massive even during such a atypical year.

I am so thankful for my time at Western Michigan University. I was able to accomplish everything that I set out to do when moving from California to Michigan. I successfully completed two different majors: Aviation Flight Science and Cello Performance; I was able to be a successful member of the Lee Honor’s College, and partake on a study in the states trip; and I was able to study abroad in Melbourne, Australia. All the opportunities that WMU helped me receive, and the accomplishments that they helped me achieve will be something that I will always be grateful of. I am so proud to be a bronco, and I am glad that I was able to successfully share my musical talents as my senior thesis.