

This is My Song

The lights dim. The crowded concert hall quiets as the conductor strides out onto the stage. Slowly the maestro raises his arms. Beautiful music floods the silence. The emotions of the composer come alive in the lovely symphony. People of every age and background imaginable are suddenly brought together by the power of the music.

Anne Frank's diary, written in the solitude of the attic, brought her emotions to life, filling her forced silence with hope for an end to the intolerance and injustices of the world. The power of her words continues today, inspiring people around the world with her dreams of freedom and peace.

In the same way that Anne used her writing skills to preserve her legacy, my ability to create music may be the way I build mine. Music is important to me because it gives me the opportunity to make something beautiful. When I play the flute, I am filling the silence, just as Anne filled her blank sheets of paper with words. Anne wrote, "I am grateful to God for giving me this gift of writing, of expressing all that is in me."¹ Music does the same thing for me.

Music is universal. Because I have lived and traveled in foreign countries, I know that many of the things Anne longed for, such as a home of her own and the freedom to move about when and where she wanted to, are worldwide desires. People everywhere think the same way as Anne did when she wrote, "What is the use of war? Why can't people live peacefully together? Why all of this destruction?"² Music can also express these wishes. All over the world, people can understand music. You don't need a translator to convey these feelings through it. Just as Anne's diary relates to a much wider audience than teenage girls, music applies to all ages, religions, and cultures. Music can build connections between these different

types of people. It is not the words of Anne's diary by themselves or the individual notes of my playing that really matter. Instead, it is the ideas expressed in them that work to call people to recognize each other's differences and respect them. In this way, we can move on towards the goals of tolerance and justice.

Anne's legacy is not simply her diary. Her legacy is hope. Throughout the years of hiding, she preserved the hope that someday people would be able to live peacefully together; that someday she would be treated "as a person again, and not just a Jew";³ and that someday people would learn to understand and respect one another's beliefs, even if they didn't necessarily agree with them. Through my flute playing, I am trying to reach these goals. My playing has already brought me connections with people whom I would not normally seek out because of the age difference between us.

I desire to leave a legacy as meaningful as Anne's. Anne believed that young people are worth listening to and that they, too, can change the world. I think that she is right. Anyone can make an impact if they use their gifts and try to make a difference in how people view others. Once music has put me on a common ground with others, any awkwardness, distrust, or hate diminishes. Then I am able to communicate and build relationships with them regardless of our differences.

Anne's words and ideas inspire me to act. I cannot just sit here and do nothing. Using my music, I will strive to help people overcome their differences and work together. I choose to make freedom, tolerance, justice, peace, and hope my legacy. Who will join me in my song?

¹ Anne Frank, [The Diary of a Young Girl](#) (New York: Bantam Books, 1993) 197.

² Frank 222.

³ Frank 207.