

## 2013 Fall Scholarship Essay

- YAN Boya

On Christmas Day, I always received a lot of presents, because it is my birthday. But what I really want to get is the pure atmosphere on Christmas, the shining Christmas trees, the mysterious Santa Claus, and the wonderful dinner with my family. So, in my childhood, I had a dream that one day I will celebrate my birthday in western countries and spend a pure Christmas with my family. The childhood dream has deeply rooted in my heart, and leads my future life all the time.

I did two important decisions myself in my life. First, I chose to study science instead of liberal art in senior high school. Although my parents and friends told me that maybe I could do better in liberal art, I insisted to my own choice. Finally, I proved that I could also do well in science through my three years of hard work. Then, I decided to study music in the university. Because one day, I realized that music is the thing I really fall in love with, not anything else, and I couldn't wait to go deeper into the music world and take music to my life. There were many voices against me, but I just want to be myself and stuck to my choice again. I never regret to my decisions, because I believe that challenges can make my life more colorful.

And now, I'm making another significant decision--to go abroad and being a visiting student in my junior year. It is a big challenge for me, but I'm ready to face it!

I'm now a sophomore-year student in piano major at Beijing Normal University and taught by Professor YANG. Thanks for her recommendation, I got many opportunities to communicate with piano professors from different countries in my freshman year, and I received some prizes in domestic major piano competitions. In addition, I also did a good job in other classes and won the first-class scholarship last year. But I think this major is somehow special, it requires us to broaden our eyes, thus having a deeper understanding of music. So, going abroad and learning about different culture is really important for my future study. Jacobs School of Music in Indiana University is one of the best music schools in the world, you can sense the musical atmosphere everywhere around the school, and I just couldn't imagine that I was accepted by Professor Edlina-Dubinsky to her studio, I believe she can help me a lot with my piano performing and music study.

And the second reason is that I want to experience more, to fulfill my life, to become mature. Two years ago, I left me home, and came to study in Beijing alone. Suddenly, I found that there were many things I couldn't do. So, I started to learn things like how to wash clothes step by step. And now, I become really independent since I could do daily affairs and planned my life. I think I'm ready to go much further, with these basic skills; I can concentrate more on studying. I found that few students in music major studying abroad as visiting students, maybe it is harder for them to adjust to a totally different teaching way. But I'm not afraid to have a try, and I believe I have the ability to adapt to their way and learn more things abroad. And I've heard that one may met many problems when they began their life abroad, but I think all the difficulties are treasures for

me, and I will try my best to face them alone, thus becoming mature enough to step into the society.

I will never forget my childhood dream and the dream led me form an attitude towards life--never be afraid, never give up, and never regret. Above all, I believe going abroad is a good opportunity for me to achieve my dream and do better in my future life!