

Great Lakes Male Chorus Association Scholarship Committee,

Hello, my name is Brendan Stevens and I am a senior this year at Swartz Creek High School. In the fall, I will be attending the University of Michigan – Flint as a Music Education and Performance Major. I started singing, in January, with both the Flint Norton and the Flint Male Choirs as a first Tenor. I am seeking the GLMCA scholarship to help with funding my musical aspirations. I would like to introduce myself to you so that you can better understand who I am as a person and an artist. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

The discovery of my love of music started as a complete accident. At age ten, I went to see my Grandpa (Papa Mark) in Largo, Florida. Papa frequents a Karaoke establishment on Thursday nights called Sportsters. So, I headed up to the stage at 10 years old to sing my favorite song, "Drops of Jupiter" by the band Train. I had no idea what to expect and I was very nervous. However, when I began singing, every head in the bar turned my way, the audience begins to cheer, smile, applaud, and whisper to one another, "WHO IS THAT???" That moment marked the discovery of my love for music and performing. Music has been a key part of my life ever since.

While I have done well as a student at my high school, in my heart I am a musician. I am creative and dedicated to my craft. My time, energy and focus is on music. My weekly classes consist of not only high school curriculum but also a weekly private piano lesson, a classical private vocal lesson, and a popular music vocal lesson. I have been taking voice and instrumental (guitar, piano, trombone) lessons since I was 12 years old. I am also a composer/song writer and this year I have started the endeavor of creating my first solo album. In addition, most weeks will find me practicing for the latest high school play, singing with my school or a local choir, and entertaining at community events as a selected soloist. I am a member of the Swartz Creek Varsity choir, Con Cantabile and Madrigals (the elite choir) at my school. Over the years, I have sung with the Mid Michigan Catholic Choir, the Voice Mix thru Grand Blanc music, and my local church choir at Faith Missionary Church. I have been a successful state level soloist at the MSVMA Solo & Ensemble festival, performed and placed well at NATS, selected to the Chamber choir at Blue Lakes' summer camp, and selected as a soloist at the University of Michigan- Flint Summer Vocal Academy.

Within Swartz Creek High School, I have been an integral part of their Theater and Music departments playing lead roles in the musicals performed at the school. I have had lead parts in musicals 'The Little Mermaid', 'Footloose' and "'Leader of the Pack.'" I have also been part of nonmusical plays at the school thru the Swartz Creek Drama Club. I have received my Varsity Letter in Tennis and participated in many community service activities. My community service

mostly involves singing to help raise money for causes like American Veterans, Food Bank of Michigan, Children's Miracle Network, the Humane Society of Michigan and fundraisers for other local causes (house fire, burial expensed for a family tragedy). I have volunteered as an entertainer at the Flushing Fall Festival, to sing the National Anthem for the Shriner's circus, and singing at churches, community meeting/events as a member of the Swartz Creek Madrigals.

As I have grown up, I have experienced some of the music industry, and to be honest some of my musical journey has been discouraging. At age twelve, I was selected as a cast member of a reality series about up and coming singers called 'Raw Rock City.' A cable network never picked up the series and that ended my reality TV aspirations. At fifteen, I joined the many that waited in line for the Voice and never got past round One. At sixteen, puberty ensued and I thought, "Will I ever get my voice back again?" As my voice did eventually come back, it has grown, matured, and changed and so have I. My goal of becoming a famous solo artist is not as important to me any longer. These days I feel blessed to be part of music within my community. I believe in the power of music and I believe music enhances a community. I cannot think of anything I would rather do with my life than perform and help others be better performers. Whether I receive the GLMCA scholarship or not, I would like to thank you for your part in enriching my life by allowing me to be part of these wonderful choirs. I can already see that they will help me grow as a musician and to bring exceptional music to my community. Thank you for your consideration of my application and I look forward to performing for you sometime soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Stevens', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brendan Stevens

Some of my performances and my growth as an artist are document through my YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkopiu5fa5CdyGAStZUXDSA> . Please feel free to listen.