

Student Reporter

## Beethoven Fifths Concert at the Hollywood Bowl



**Jacob Kwon**  
Grade 11  
North Hollywood High School



The LA Philharmonic Orchestra and Cho Seong Jin taking stage  
[Source: Author, Jacob Kwon]

My family, hoping to do something eventful this summer, hastily decided to attend the Beethoven Fifths Concert at the Hollywood Bowl. The program featured the talented Korean pianist Cho Seong Jin and the LA Philharmonic Orchestra, and Gustavo Dudamel, who conducted Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major, Op. 73 and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony (not including another soloist perfor-

mance). Needless to say, this experience was unforgettable, as it was my first time at a Hollywood Bowl concert.

We arrived at the venue entrance and noticed a booth with people giving free fans, pamphlets, and even food to the concertgoers, which were all part of a Korean cultural awareness program. Naturally, with the arrival of a famous Korean mu-

sician, the program occurred in the hopes of spreading Korean culture to foreigners. Moreover, I noticed that there were a lot of Korean fans eager to watch Cho Seong Jin's performance, which only made me more excited.

After finishing the security check and finding our seats, my family eagerly waited for the pianist's solo. The LA Philharmonic Orchestra set up and not much later, Cho Seong Jin went onstage, followed by the crowd's uproar. Upon his entrance, I felt proud to see Korean representation in a Hollywood Bowl concert, much like my mom who said that "it was like seeing my son onstage." His solo was by far my favorite piano performance to date, although I'm not much of an expert to confirm such a bold statement. I felt the confidence exuding even from far away with every keystroke and flurry of notes. When he finished the last phrase, the crowd gave a standing

ovation.

The next performance, after intermission, was Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, with its popular opening musical phrase. Funnily enough, when that phrase ended, a lot of people looked unfamiliar with the following lines, which I also was guilty of. Even though the music was unfamiliar, I thoroughly enjoyed the orchestra's last performance of the night. It had its own merit that distinguished itself from the previous act.

Overall, my impression of this concert was generally positive. Beyond the amazing performance from Cho Seong Jin and the LA Philharmonic Orchestra, the overall outside setting was so refreshing. From the iconic beams of light shining on the night sky to the occasional cricket chirps, subtle details like these enhanced my first Hollywood Bowl concert experience.

Student Reporter

## Finding the Spirit of New York City



**Alison Lee**  
Grade 11  
Orange County School of the Arts

New York City. Hearing the name always felt like indulging in a cliché; a place people dream of heading to when they're all grown up and ready to leave their small, safe, and secure suburban neighborhoods. Growing up in the relatively quiet suburbs of Southern California, New York City always existed in my imagination as a fascinating metropolis where hearts are simultaneously broken and made, careers are decisively launched, and the pizzas are superior. Seeing that my slightly unrealistic vision of New York City was fueled by the aforementioned impractically romanticized forms of media, I realized the charm of the city was a lot deeper than my glorified fantasy after visiting the city for the first time this past July.

The first thing I noticed when stepping out of the airport was not the overwhelming humidity and oppressive heat, or the faint smell of marijuana in the distance, but the sheer density of people and creatures everywhere, whether it be the slightly annoyed locals, the easy-to-spot tourists (like myself), or the diverse range of dogs on the

sidewalk. Almost every corner was teeming with people walking their complicated routes, nonchalantly ignoring the pedestrian cross signs, heading to work, museums, bodegas, or parks. This is one part of New York that most depictions seem to get right: the densely crowded streets full of people all focused on their individual walk in life.



A busy street in Manhattan, New York, similar to what is projected in media.  
[Source: Author, Alison Lee]

But, one aspect of the city that remains undeniable yet is often overlooked and conveniently ignored in pop culture depictions of New York City, are the class and wealth disparities that divide lifestyles in the city. More specifically, many instances of gentrification, or the process in which the culture and physical landscape of a lower-class urban area (often communities of color) are

transformed through the influx of wealthier people moving in and displacing the original residents of the community, are concealed behind a privileged and elitist perspective of living in the city. A prime example can be found in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a community that has experienced significant rent increases and residential displacement since 1990. While the gentrification of Williamsburg is common knowledge in the city, many people remain complicit by ignoring its toll on the original residents of the community and failing to advocate against such cultural erasure.

In the end, traveling to New York has made me realize that the spirit of New York exists beyond the superficial image marketed to consumers in the media; the spirit of New York is found in the densely populated streets and the communities that these people form. And part of enjoying and realizing this true spirit of New York is working to protect vulnerable communities from displacement and preserve what the spirit of New York means to each of these communities as well.

Student Reporter

## Make Your Own Way to Relieve Stress



**Hannah Lee**  
Grade 10  
South High School

Stress. It's something we all hate but we also cannot avoid. Honestly, relieving your stress is not as easy as it seems. For example, sleeping doesn't really help, it just pushes your stress levels to the next day. "It's okay, it'll go away." Does it really, though? No, it doesn't. Think of it this way, if you tell yourself that your project was done well without putting any effort in on your project, are your words true? Or are you just trying to comfort yourself? Stress is the same type of situation as this. Rather than trying comforting words, it's better to just get it out of your system.

One of the ways that I personally relieve my stress is by listening to music or playing instruments. Many people have stated that the

biggest type of stress they receive in their teenage years is the pressure of working to get into a good college. Grades, the perfect G.P.A, and extracurriculars can really tire a teenager out, especially when these are the most crucial moments of a teen's life, including most of their physical growth. When I feel a wave of stress come over me, I like to just turn on a playlist that I enjoy, or go out and play some tennis to blow off steam. Personally, I like Kpop, and the fun beat of the songs always gets me swaying to the beat and helps me feel much better after a few songs.

But really, music is just one example of the many possibilities that you can use to carve your own stress relief method. It could be a

sport, - it could be art, or it could even be engineering your own robot. Anything that helps you be happy is really the way to the success of stress relief. Many studies say that stress is in fact a big factor in early-aged deaths. Stress can even make you prone to heart diseases, cancer, and other health problems.

So how can you relieve stress? Well, try brainstorming some fun activities that you like to do on a daily basis! Do you like to paint? Try focusing the colors on your emotions! Step back and look at your work! Do you like to play soccer? Do some drills, with all your passion! Doing what you love is a great way to take your mind off of your responsibilities, even if it's just for a couple of minutes, or a



My AirPods/earphones, for every time I turn on a playlist to blow off some steam in silence.  
[Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

whole day.

So, would you be up to trying your own method?



Student Reporter

A Look Into FilmED Academy of the Arts



Minseo Kwon  
Grade 10  
Portola High School



Students search for a creative background location for their next film idea.  
[Source: Author, Minseo Kwon]

For the past several summers, David Junker has run the FilmED Academy of the Arts workshop to enhance students’ knowledge in cinematography and editing. Junker holds three sessions over the long summer break and teaches students from twelve different schools for nine days at a time. Throughout the workshop, participants are taught camerawork, editing skills, and film techniques necessary to be suc-

cessful in their school’s broadcasting class.

While nine days is a short time, the class runs for eight hours each day, giving students the time to shoot films. This hands-on class allows students to use expensive equipment such as tripods, a variety of mics, lighting, and large cameras. From start to finish, the participants have to produce an original product that best show-

cases their talents. The four main projects the learners create are a silent film, spot feature, action sequence, and music video.

The silent film is a video with no audio, forcing the actors to use their facial expressions to convey emotion. The filmmakers used sequencing to shoot several different clips of the same action from different angles. When editing, students explored different sound effects or music that they could add to the background of the film.

Following the silent film, the participants of the workshop were tasked with creating a documentary-style report. They used interview techniques that were learned in class to obtain an interesting story from a specific subject. Music or sound effects were not allowed, and students had to rely on the natural sound they had gathered in their tapes to liven the spot

feature.

Furthermore, the action sequence combined the participants’ talents of musicality and creativity to produce a film that deceived the audience’s eyes. Students had to shoot at the right angles to stunt fight and arrange clips cleverly. Suspense was also a major factor in this film as students needed to lead up to the climactic moment.

The final project was a music video that required students to combine all the information that they had learned over the previous two weeks. Their story had to fit the music and tone they chose to make the audience feel a certain way.

Overall the FilmEd Academy of the ARts workshop was an amazing experience. If you are interested in making films, this workshop might just be for you.

Student Reporter

The Longest 12 Minute in My Life



Lois Lee  
Grade 10  
Juniper Christian School

This summer, our family traveled to Los Angeles, California. My parents were planning this trip since last year, but due to Covid-19, we had to cancel and go this year instead. We packed a lot of bags and took a total of eight pieces of luggage to the airport. Our family planned to stay in LA for ten days and go to Las Vegas too. However, after two days, my brother had a high fever and said he was not feeling well. So at 2 AM, my parents had my brother do the antigen test; but as soon as he did the test, exactly two dark and bold lines appeared. The antigen test had a lot of steps to needed to be followed. After we had used the stick that went in our nose, we had to mix it up with a special liquid. Then, we had to rest or wait for twelve minutes every time we did the test. My brother



My brother was incredibly happy by being able to go outside after finally testing negative for Covid-19.  
[Source: Author, Lois Lee]

had to test every single day to show he was positive. However, despite having no symptoms, he kept getting two dark lines. So we were very anxious and worried that we might not be able to go back home

together. In the worst case, my father and I would have had to go home first, and my brother and my mom would go later. Also, our whole family had to test every day to see if we were healthy.

We had to wait twelve minutes every time we tested, and the twelve minutes were very long. During this time I was very nervous, and it was the longest twelve minutes that I felt in my life. Thankfully, in our family, nobody had gotten Covid-19 except for my brother.

My brother stated that his whole body was aching and that he was extra tired while having Covid-19. Since he became sick, he was bored and annoyed because he had to stay at home for the entire week. Also, our father was strict about

his exposure and kept him eating alone. Because of that, he said he was very sad and annoyed about getting the coronavirus. Even though there was a swimming pool in the house, he could not play in the water because of his fever. He said he was angry and bored of not playing.

Even now, we still see people getting Covid-19. From this experience, our whole family learned how to prevent catching Covid-19. To prevent this, we should keep our immune system healthy by making sure to get our vitamins and a lot of sleep. Also, if somebody gets the virus, try to stay away, and find interesting ways to stay at home; such as watching movies, drawing, or even making something. So, always be aware!

Student Reporter

A Day at the Seattle Art Fair



Trinity Lee  
Grade 10  
Interlake High School

As summer progresses, many have taken the freedom of summer break as a chance to travel, relax, or simply take in the beautiful weather. However, I have had the amazing opportunity to visit the Seattle Art Fair, which was filled to the brim with wonderful works from a plethora of talented modern artists. Held in the Lumen building in downtown Seattle, I was amazed at how the fair seemed to flourish with the completely different approaches and techniques applied by all the different artists.

The Seattle Art Fair is a unique showcase that exhibits contemporary and modern works from different artists from all around the Pacific Northwest. Inside the exhibit, there are multiple sections, one for each artist to present their own unique pieces. While moving from one stand to the next, I was surprised each time by the completely contrasting styles that artists had with each other. Moreover, not

only were the individual pieces specialized in their own form, but the materials used were also completely spontaneous and unique, ranging from paper and oil paints to mirrors, metal, gold foil, and wood.

My favorite exhibits were the 3D ones, as they seemed to amplify the artist’s creativity and bring their pieces to life. There was a miscellany of such works, including a life-size statue of a woman wearing a swim cap, metal water fountains that were hand-welded, and even a life-size shed that mimicked an art studio, where anyone could enter and explore how such creative magic was developed. I also admired the hyper-realistic paintings that were presented, my favorite being a depiction of a row of mason jars. However, out of all the amazing art, the one that intrigued me the most was a large, 3D dodecahedron-like shape, created using mirrors and lights. The mirrors reflected upon each other and



There were a variety of separate exhibits for each artist, each showcasing their separate styles and techniques.  
[Source: Author, Trinity Lee]

were accentuated using lights, forming an infinite tunnel-like view when looking into one of the many mirrors on the surface of the piece.

My experience at the Seattle Art Fair was truly one to remember. Although the appeal of antiquated and historic works from museums are also truly admirable and greatly treasured, I believe that this fair was an amazing

opportunity for not only artists to showcase their skills, but for people to also admire the talent stemming from our own generation. Additionally, I was immediately taken by the bursting uniqueness of the different contemporary projects shown at the exhibit, as it showed me how art is not just limited to painting, but also encompasses the different forms and techniques used to express one’s individuality.