

Collin Thomas

Bass Guitar/Tuba/Guitar/Clarinet

I was first introduced to music at an early age. As a toddler I would constantly dance and sing on the couch to songs by Alan Jackson and Billy Ray Cyrus, at least that's what my mother told me. At about the age of 6, I was introduced to rock music and became an obsessive listener to the point of having my own cassette collection courtesy of my mother. Growing up with playing video games I also enjoyed listening to the soundtracks they provided.

I picked up my first instrument in middle school which was the Clarinet. Once I got into high school I picked up Tuba and Bass Guitar. I was obsessed with Rush and Metallica and practiced their bass lines religiously. Sometime later I also picked up Guitar and Upright Bass and played the latter in the school's concert band. After I graduated high school I started gigging out on Bass Guitar and I also joined the Lake Charles Community Band on Tuba and am a co-founder of the Lake Charles Jazz Katz as its bassist. I also compose and record my own material at home and I enjoy experimenting with new recording methods.

Music is my lifeblood, there's nothing quite like it. Music can make one feel a whirlwind of emotions that can't be expressed even through words alone. Music has taught me to be disciplined, but at the same time to also have freedom in the way one expresses themselves.

Teaching music has been an aspiration of mine since I was in high school. My band director, James Hearne, was a huge influence on me and he inspired me to want to teach others the joy of music. I was awarded the Band Director's Award by him during my last year in high school; it hangs in the den of my home as a reminder that I would like to teach others the joy of music he taught me. Many of his teachings still linger into my playing and his philosophies are the foundation of my performing life.

A personal philosophy of mine is to "Live life every day to the fullest and bring joy to all with everything you do."