



# One Note At A Time

## Trinity Schaefer, Civil Engineering, 2022

Engaged  
Living

### SUMMARY

After a semester of abstaining from participation in performance ensembles in the interest of focusing on my academic major, I realized that I would not be content with giving up my passion for music. I decided that pursuing music would be worth the sacrifices, and began participating in jazz performance ensembles at UTSA. I performed in a jazz "Combo" (A small, beginner ensemble), and progressed to the top ensemble, or "Big Band". The expectations are high and the music is challenging, however this continuous experience has taught me what it truly means to be a musician: It means refusing to be satisfied with "good enough" and, despite setbacks, constantly striving to improve as a player and grow as an individual.



### SPICES

I am participating in UTSA jazz ensembles throughout my academic career to establish a pattern of consistent improvement in my abilities as a saxophonist and jazz artist.

### HERBS

**Resilience:** I had to overcome my fear of inadequacy and dedicate myself to consistent improvement.  
**Benevolence:** I'm learning to communicate through music and foster positive feelings in others.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Agency Through Accomplishment:** Milestones such as playing my first improvisational solo and progressing to the top jazz ensemble on campus have encouraged me to believe in myself.

**Intellectual Dexterity:** The rigor of jazz as a genre requires a superior education and comprehension of music and music theory.

**Self Reflection and Awareness:** My progression as a musician despite my initial doubts has encouraged me to perceive myself differently.



### IMPACT

Being involved in the jazz ensemble program has taught me not only about music, but also about myself. It taught me to be patient. and that the path to success is not always a straight line. Often I questioned whether I would ever persevere over certain challenges, but I did. I'm learning to ask for help when I need it, and to push through even the hardest days. Most of all, I value the new perspective I have of myself; I'm learning that I am capable of much more than I can imagine, and that confidence will guide me throughout my entire life.

### ADVICE

Students are often pressured by parents or peers to focus on their academic field, and discouraged from pursuing their passions. But if you love something, don't let anyone convince you that it is a waste of time!