



A 501(c)(3) nonprofit school of music.

October 1, 2023

Dear ,

The story of Uptown Music Collective isn't just about the public success seen on stage at the Community Arts Center each year. Instead, it's a story about daily private victories that happen in the lesson room and classroom, behind the scenes, where it's really all about an educational process that takes individuals on a transformative journey, and I've got the perfect tale to share.

Meet Dom Fredin.

Starting with a blank musical slate, Dom had something more valuable than any skill – a burning passion. With next to zero guitar skills starting out, but a universe of enthusiasm, he dove headfirst into his lessons, working hard to learn his favorite songs alongside the scales, exercises, and chords required by his teacher. While many only dream of the on-stage spotlight, Dom saw the action behind the scenes at Uptown performances and swiftly integrated himself into our Tech program. Here, he became an essential backstage force during the Special Performance Group's gigs at venues like the Community Arts Center and the Community Theater League. From setups to tear-downs, changing instruments to adjusting stands, Dom was part of the magic behind the curtain, forming close bonds with fellow techs and emerging as a reliable leader.

But the music inside him wasn't to be confined backstage. As the years passed, his hard work paid off. As his fingers learned to dance more confidently on the guitar, he immersed himself further into the Collective's process, attending music theory classes, participating in workshops, and performing in student showcases. He also joined his first Community Performance Group.

I'll never forget sitting with Dom and some of the techs around that time at an SPG1 after-party, following a major performance. Amidst the camaraderie and laughter, I heard Dom voice a dream - not just for himself but for the entire crew of techs around the table. He said, "I can't wait until all of us make it into Special Performance Group 1 and get to play on stage together." Dom took the stage with his friends at the Community Arts Center and other venues a year later. All in all, Dom performed in 12 major productions over the course of his three years in SPG1, even directing the fall show of his senior year, "Reelin' in The Years: The Music of Steely Dan and the Doobie Brothers".

Fast forward to today, and Dom's journey has taken him to Slippery Rock University, where his passion and desire to directly help others has led to him majoring in music therapy. Dom's journey exemplifies what the Uptown Music Collective stands for: nurturing passion, honing skills, and transforming dreams into reality.

It's people like you who make stories like Dom Fredin's possible, along with hundreds of other young dreamers who pass through our doors each year. With your continued support, we can keep the music playing and the dreamers dreaming. Please, donate to the Collective today.

With gratitude,

Dave Brumbaugh – Executive Director and Founder, Uptown Music Collective

P.S. Every donation, big or small, helps us to connect more kids with music.

The official registration and financial information of Uptown Music Collective may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

