



I am a one
woman choir from
Cleveland, OH

Songwriting is an ingrained passion. Creating music is therapeutic to myself and for others. Singing soothes my soul and allows me to articulate feelings words alone cannot simulate.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." -Plato

Lyrics to the songs featured in the video:

Greater than Gold

Don't want to beg
I don't want to borrow
Got me a dollar
but not 'til tomorrow
I have many dreams and friends
oh, they are greater than gold

On March 4, 1908, Lake View Elementary School in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood went up in flames. That day, 175 people died, including 172 children. This song tells the story of the janitor, Fitz Hirter, who lost 3 of his own children in the fire but saved dozens of others.



Ash Wednesday

The story told
a tale of woe 100 years ago
Building comprised of Norway pine and now it is gone
Edna, the Swiss Fitz Hirter's daughter
Tangled in limbs, the grim, became a martyr
The eldest survived but returned to die
in the arms of his dead sister Ida
I'm trying my love but I can't get into the darkness
Peace be my love, go sweetly into the darkness
3 story leaps, the feats, to escape the darkness
All in vain
and the trumpets sang
vocal loops

Releases:

I Really Like Genetics But I'd Rather Have a Good Time

2009, 10 song, tape release

Inventory: sold out

I composed, recorded, mixed the music, and created artwork

Created at A-to-Z Audio in North Olmsted, OH



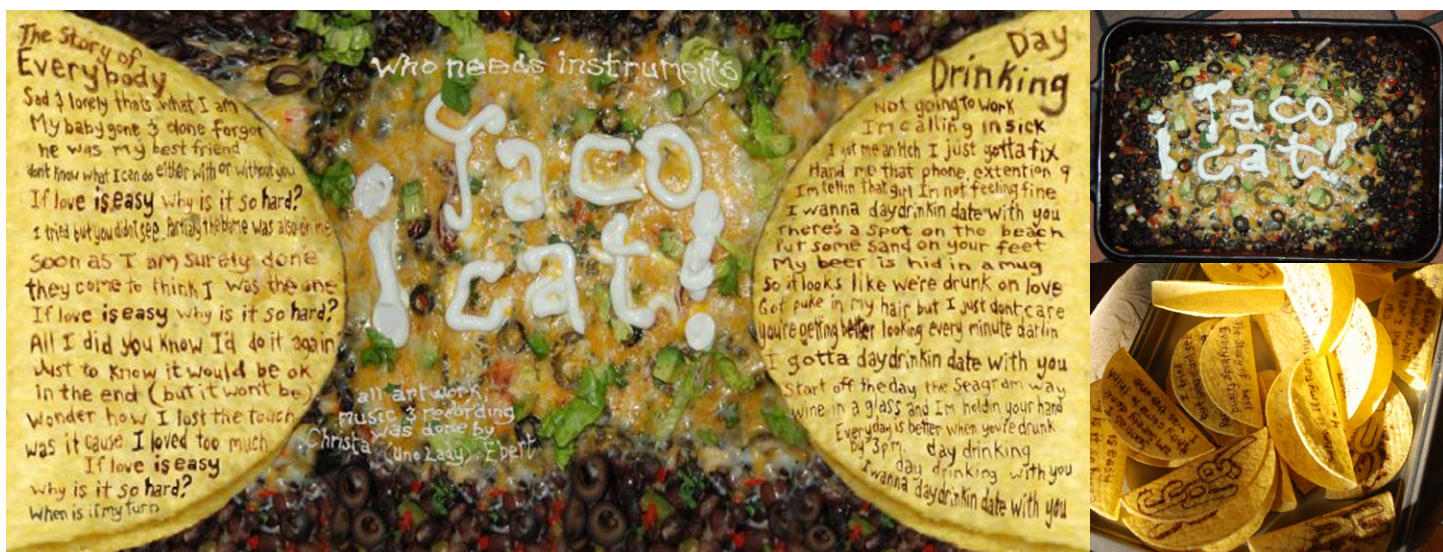
Taco Cat

2010, 2 song, 7" record release

Inventory: 15

I composed, recorded, mixed, and created the artwork

Pressed at Gotta Groove Records, Cleveland, OH



For my *TacoCat* record release show, I made 3 trays of black bean tacos for the guests with vegan and gluten free options. The lyrics were hand written into taco shells using a wood burner then put together in Photoshop.

Equipment:

With a microphone, small mixer, and loop pedal perched upon a DIY lit podium, I rely only on my voice for musical accompaniment.



Yamaha MG102C Mixer

Purchased in 2010
This allows me add effects to my vocals.



Boss 20 XL Loop pedal

Purchased in 2008
This allows me to layer my voice
Downfall: There are 11 loop settings but all are being used. In order to create new songs, old songs must be deleted.



Logic Pro 7- Academic version

Purchased in 2006
This allows me to record, mix, and master my music
Downfall: Academic versions cannot be updated.
Because the program is older and my computer is new there are compatibility issues and getting the two to work together ifs often challenging and involves a lot of restarting of the program.



Metal Flip (the dog)

2010, t-shirts
Inventory: 7
Artwork by Nathan K., Cleveland, OH
Created at Lotus Printing, Cleveland, OH

Thank you

2009, t-shirts
Inventory: 5
Artwork by John G., Cleveland, OH
Created at Superelectric Press, Cleveland, OH





Podium, Built in 2007

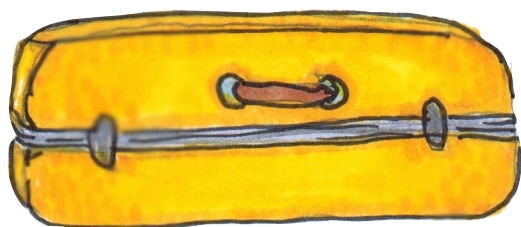
Made with pegboard, drywall frames, lights, and a power strip.

The podium allows me to place my pedals on a platform and plug them in. It also adds a visual effect to my performance.

Downfall: It is inefficient. The podium is sharp & heavy. I have cut my hands and legs on it numerous times. It does not fit in many vehicles. The power strip is partially broken and the lights timer no longer works.

New Podium idea:

With the help of friends I would like to create a more functional podium. As shown in the drawing, the new design utilizes a repurposed, vintage suitcase. The suitcase would transport the pedals and expand during performances to function as a platform.



Vintage suitcase opens into podium



GOALS:

Being awarded this fellowship will expand my capacity, knowledge, and marketing efforts, which will allow me to achieve my creative potential.

Goal #1: Increase Capacity

My first goal with the fellowship is to increase **capacity** and buy new equipment and press records.

Increase Capacity by:

- buying new pedals
- computer programs
- recording equipment
- PA
- new records
- make new copies of old tapes & records

FIRST RECORD IDEA:

Current Unreleased songs

There are 10 songs on my pedal that have not been recorded and have only been performed live.

In order to record the songs stored on my pedal, I need to borrow 3 pieces of equipment to transfer the file formats. For the last record I borrowed an 8 track, a CD burner to transfer the song from tape to CD, and then put the music on my computer.

My computer program no longer functions properly so I'd need to borrow equipment again or pay someone handsomely to mix and master the recordings. This fellowship would allow me to purchase the needed equipment to record the 10 songs that are unreleased.



Price for
color vinly
100 = \$2,500
300 = \$3,500

A certain technician at Gotta Groove Records creates unique vinyl. If awarded the fellowship I would have her make my new records.

SECOND RECORD IDEA: Cleveland-themed record.



John S. in center at Jail. 1931, Cleveland Press.

Two of my songs are currently about Cleveland. I want to explore this creative city and its cultures, tell tales of what I find. One song idea is to recreate a song written by my great great grandfather.

As a 5th generation Clevelander I am passionate about my city and strive to make it a better place. My great great grandfather was an unsung hero. "Honest" John S. served as a Cleveland Councilman from 1901 to 1930 and was Sherrieff of Cuyahoga County from 1931 to 1939.

As Sherrieff he strove to humanize the jails. One example in which he improve the inmates' quality of life was though the placement of pianos and record players on every nine floors, because "music is the devil's bitter enemy" (Cleveland Press, 1931).

At the Cleveland Press Archives at Cleveland State I discovered an article that quoted John S. as he explained his hardships during the depression of 1893.

His wife (my great great grandmother) had served up the "last bowl of bean soup in the house" (Cleveland Press, 1931). With an eviction notice in hand he wrote a song, went to the local saloon, sang, and gathered enough money to pay his rent. As a creative fellow I would put music to the lyrics and restore history.

Note: The article has been cropped to best fit the format. Additional verses are in the original article.

DARROW'S DESPAIR

PAINS

BY CHARLES W. LAWRENCE.

The conversation drifted at Sheriff John M. Sullivan's daily conference with reporters and the sheriff mentioned Clarence Darrow.

"Why, I remember as if it were yesterday the panic of 1893—nine million men out of work, which was just as bad in proportion to the population as it is today."

"Why, I was just a young man then, back in 1893, understand, and I had a wife and two little ones and another on the way. I hadn't had a job for months. I'll tell you, the greatest inspiration in the world is determination."

He Writes Song.

"Well, as I sat with an eviction notice on my table, and my wife prepared the last bowl of bean soup in the house, I sat and wrote a song. It went like this:

I
 'Tis out of employment, starvation in view;
 Now what is a poor man in my place
 to do?
 Weary of wonder, earworm and sad,
 I'm looking for work, and there's none to
 be had.
 Choosing rather to die than to beg or to
 steal.
 The sharp pangs of hunger I cannot con-
 ceal.

Chorus:

Dinnerless, supperless,
 Still I must roam,
 There's no food for my little ones,
 Starving at home.

Not a Dry Eye.

"I went over to the blind man and I said:
 "Buddy, I happen to belong to the great army of the unemployed. I have written a song. Will you let me sing it here?"
 "And he said: 'Are you a union man?"
 "And I said: 'A union man? A thousand times, yes. I have been kicked from pillar to post as I picketed as a union man."
 "And he said: "All right, hum the tune in my ear."
 "Well, sir, I hummed the tune in his ear, and he, being a real artist, you understand, caught right on, and I stood there in all my young manhood and sang that song.
 "I want to tell you that every whisky salesman, every beer salesman, every tobacco salesman in that saloon came over to me, clapped me on the shoulder and gave me money. When I was through I had \$7.60.
 "I rushed home with that money (rent was \$8 in those days) and I said to my wife: 'Mother, we'll not sleep in the gutter tonight.'"

Goal # 2: Knowledge

A portion of the fellowship funds would be used to increase my **knowledge** of music and composition

Increase knowledge by:

- learning how to sight-read
- voice lessons
- music program training
- piano lessons



Sight-reading would be especially useful recording the aforementioned instrumental chorus recording. Previously I have relied on my natural ability to decipher notes. Sight-reading would allow me to hone my talents and understand and perform more complex compositions. Improving my creative capacity would also open up opportunities to make music for films.

Voice lessons-I would like to receive and eventually give voice lessons. On more than one occasion I have been asked to give voice lessons, but as an “untrained” artist, I declined. With voice lessons I would be one step closer to sharing my gift in other ways. Sight reading will aid in this as well.

Music Program-After purchasing a more compatible music program with the fellowship funds, I would find a local instructor to assist me in navigating the program. I taught myself to use my current music program. There are many features I do not understand how to utilize. By properly learning how to use the program I can increase the quality of my work.



Piano lessons:

- will aid in sight reading
- will help expand my musical ability
- Of my fellow musicians, there are few piano players

With the fellowship funds I would purchase a Harmonious pump organ, a portable organ with a unique tone.

Goal 3: Expand Marketing Efforts

Expand marketing efforts:

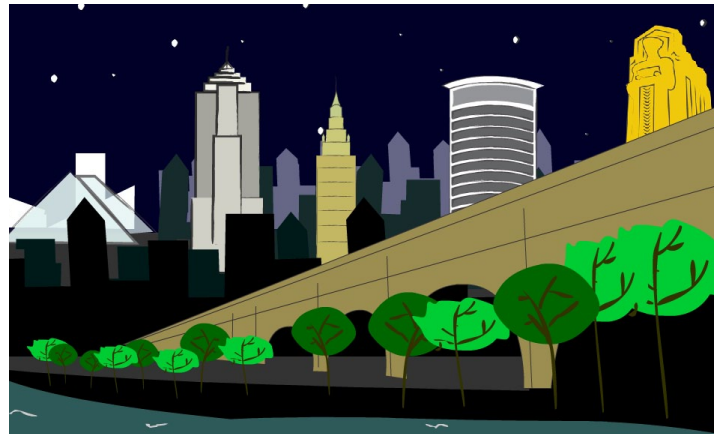
- buy new merchandise
- improve website
- create LLC
- mail to radio & record labels

New merchandise:

As the previous pages show, my inventory is lacking. Nothing new has been produced in over 3 years. With the fellowship award I would create and commission local artists to make new items.

Website improvements:

- Currently my website shows a picture of my latest album cover and when you click the photo, it redirects you to my Facebook page. Web design is beyond my expertise so I plan on commissioning a friend to develop a functioning website.
- On the new website there would be photos, a bio, reviews, ways to purchase merchandise, and (the most fun part) an interactive page.
- Last fall a former student and friend asked for my assistance with a school project. It showcased the Cleveland skyline. When you clicked on one of the local landmarks my voice emerged, and when it was clicked again, there was silence. It allows users to play with the various vocal layers and create their own cacophony. With the help of my friend and the fellowship funds, I will create a new interactive page for my website.



Another sub-goal is to **research publishing and sync-licensing options**. Currently my songs are not on iTunes or any other public database. If my music were more accessible, it would open up opportunities for music supervisors who are looking for the right music to fit their film projects and to sample my creations.

Starting a limited liability company and becoming a legitimate business is another sub-goal. With the fellowship funds I can pay the fees and other professional services needed to **form my own LLC**.

The final sub-goal is to get the music into the hands of those who will appreciate it. With the fellowship funds I will **distribute demos to college radio stations and record labels**.

Commitment to the Community

Community organizing is another passion of mine. The people of Cleveland are my favorite aspect of the city. To show my commitment to my community, I pledge to spend at least 90% of the fellowship funds within Cuyahoga County.

Examples of past community engagement:

I have performed at countless benefit shows for causes such as animal advocacy, supporting college radio, covering an uninsured person's hospital bills, and raising money for local arts collectives.



As co-founder of Potluck in the Park, the first ever city-wide local food feast, I organized food and supply donations, created promotional materials, coordinated 40 volunteers, managed the education tables and applications, and administered other logistics. The event drew 250 people from all over Northeast Ohio, shared over 150 dishes, and donated over 120lbs of food to the hungry.

Skill Shares is another program I helped create with other volunteers. The program promotes “do-it-yourself” learning and offers residents micro grants (\$50-\$100) to cover the cost to share their skills and knowledge with the community.



For the past 13 years I have worked at local non-profits on environmental and social justice issues. When I first learned about the Creative Workforce Fellowship I was the office manager at the state's largest environmental group and attended school on a part-time basis. At the time, degree-seeking students could not apply. Soon after, the qualifications changed and students under 12 credit hours could apply. At that same time, I was offered a scholarship that paid for my classes if I attended at a rate of 18 credit hours per semester, thus disqualifying me again for the fellowship. For the past 3 years I have worked as a fellow or graduate assistant and attended school full-time. My wages were below the poverty level and the reason why most of my equipment has become non-functional and outdated. As a GED recipient, raised in a single parent household, I have overcome many obstacles and graduated as University Valedictorian. I continue to serve my city; however my music has been underfunded and under-capacity. I had to reshuffle my priorities for an amazing academic opportunity, and I missed making music daily. This fellowship is an opportunity to catapult my creativity.