



Music, Maestro!

An average teenager spends time after school going out with friends, working at a parttime job, or just watching television. But Wes Burk is not an average teenager; he spends his evenings and a good share of his spare time practicing the piano and creating music of his own.

Determination is the keyword when describing this sort of dedication and determination is the word that best describes Wes. Determined dedication has played an important role in his life. For the past eleven years, he has faithfully practiced the piano for two hours every day.

As far back as the first grade, Wes began developing the art of becoming an accomplished pianist. Throughout those first few years, he was mainly being taught scales and lessons by teachers who taught only the mechanics. In the fifth grade, Mrs. Bonnie Johnson taught Wes how to play "music." She was a great influence on Wes, because she combined the mechanics with the musicality.

Not many high school students get the chance to try out college life, but Wes has even been able to try on the role of a college student by taking private lessons at Michigan State University from Dr. Deborah Moriarty. This lady has affected Wes more than any other person in his music career. Doctor Moriarty caused such an impact on Wes, that he even began to give piano lessons to younger kids, himself.

Obviously, Wes isn't afraid to dream big. Who knows? Perhaps one day Wes's big dream will come true and he may find himself seated at a Steinway nine-footer on the stage of Carnegie Hall . . . as the lights dim, the crowd hushes, and he places his fingers on the gleaming black and ivory keys.

