

AOD FINAL PROJECTS3 - 2020

This is truly beautiful, --. I was very moved by your poem. Singing is a great metaphor for how to be a doctor and how to be a person. My heart ached when I read "Rage is powerful when you 'come out' of hell. Easier to roar." How honest of you - that is your truth. You go on to wonder, "Did I lack the hurt to howl/ against the normal force of small containment." The suffering, the howling is palpable.

Yet what emerges is an incredibly generative, compassionate way forward: "... there is tension in pulling others up, that makes the earth/ more firm underfoot. There is a buoyant force/ in dragging up the drowned." Wow, what strong and empathetic writing. I especially loved the way you used anatomy to demonstrate that the "best" way to sing is "from the heart." This is a stirring and redemptive piece. It is a perfect note on which to end your medical school career.

Awesome, --, --, and --. I am so sorry we were not able to hear your presentation in person, because it looks like you put a lot of creative thought into the project. The artwork on the (funerary?) urns was great, intriguing and thought-provoking. I'm assuming the "mean cat" is a metaphor of your own invention (not some medical legend), but it is at once adorable and apt. Indeed there are many rather punitive guardians at the gates of medicine, but indeed as you've discovered, it is possible to defeat them or at least sneak by them. The impossibly large yet somehow shrinking steps are another good metaphor, both for what happens in medical school, and what lies ahead of us as a healthcare community and as a society. When I got to the ashes, I finally realized that the urn itself is a metaphor for death - and hopefully rebirth. I found your last slide incredibly moving. From the ashes of the last four years, you will indeed rise. And I hope that goes for our healthcare system, our society, and our country as well. We will rise, and may we rise better than we were.

What a beautiful project! It reminds me of the way in which music forms the background thread to all our lives. The combination of the music and the photos was a perfect illustration of this intertwining. Thank you for pointing out that Rhapsody in Blue is indeed a double entendre (I'd never really realized that, but of course, and what a lovely insight!). I appreciated the insight that doctoring is like jazz (there is actually an excellent article by Paul Haidet, a family physician, noting all the ways that clinical practice requires improvisational skills: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1838697>). Right now we are in the middle of chaos that is not very beautiful but certainly very unpredictable, and music remains an important source of consolation as well as hope. Clare de la Lune captures that wonderful feeling of tranquility, calm, and possibility that only love and music can create. The last segment is poignant and healing, and a wonderful reminder of how important creativity is for everyone. Finally, I loved seeing the hands moving across the keyboard. That our digits can create and produce such sounds is truly a tribute to the remarkable human species! Thank you for sharing your exquisite music and your insightful reflections.

Dear -- and --, I am very sorry that our current circumstances made it impossible to hear your project in person. I miss the narrative that I'm sure would have accompanied it had we all been together. It's always risky to interpret stand-alone art, but what I gleaned from your series of photos that cleverly evolved into a painting was what good friends you guys are; that in all circumstances you keep each other mellow and smiling; and you inspire (really impressive) creativity in each other. The final painting had an almost transcendent quality, which to me suggested that friendship is both something concrete and something that is more precious and mysterious than its specifics. I hope these ideas are not too far off the mark, and I hope you always remain friends!

Wow, Team American Pie, this is so clever! It's the perfect song, even if we have to imagine it in our minds. I've always understood "American Pie" to be about the loss of innocence and the worry that things are not going in the right direction - which certainly reflects some of the worries and concerns that arise during medical school. Your rewrite is funny, clever, and poignant. There is a sense of longing for the pure idealistic naivete of MS1 year; and an awareness of how far you've come when you return to campus and can't get into the buildings. You've left that world behind, you no longer belong there. But then you see your future - your former instructors, who are now much closer to being colleagues. The final chorus in which all of you are singing together was hopeful and uplifting. This is your future, and it will be a fulfilling one. And I hope there will be room for music in that PGY world!