

She Found Herself in Music

By Cayla Pavlovec
Interview Project

When hundreds of thousands of people gather in one place to be a part of a sound, a person could truly get lost in the feeling, or even lost in the crowd. Music festivals have been taking the concert experience to a whole new level, with bigger crowds, several bands, and even unforgettable overnight stays. Fans take advantage of opportunities to meet the bands, make new friends, and experience music in a way only history can describe. These modern day Woodstocks are where Jessica Boyer, a Millersville University student, says she discovered the more positive things in life.

Jessica is a non traditional student at Millersville, majoring in digital media and journalism. A writer at heart, Jessica has received her associates degree in English from local community college, but didn't get there without some persuasion and inspiration from her sister. Jess spent most of her time after high school graduation learning to support herself through her very first job at Giant Food stores.



Jessica in the recording studio
Contributed by Jessica Boyer

During this time, Jessica struggled decide what she really wanted in life. She pushed away the idea of college and found herself in an abusive relationship. "Life was very dark and negative. I struggled with my feelings and my desires," she states, "it wasn't until a car accident that could have taken my life that I started to really see things in a brighter light."



Xponential Fest main stage in Pennsylvania
Contributed by Jessica Boyer

“...I started to really see things in a brighter light.”

The summer after the accident, Jessica attended Warped Tour, a music festival that travels much of the United States, in a back brace. The festival had several stages and a number of major acts in the pop/punk genre of music. Jessica remembers the healing properties the festival seemed to have for her, the rhythms, beats, and lyrics brought out a side of her even she didn't recognize. A happier, more positive Jessica was born.

Music festivals have now become a summer tradition for Jessica and her friends. This past summer, she attended the Peach Festival, held in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Peach is a festival inspired by the Allman Brothers Band. It hosts many acts on the Montage Mountain property that are similar in style to ABB. The festival then closes with two headlining sets by ABB themselves. Jessica described the crowd as hippies and many people who seemed to be stuck in the 70s. Her boyfriend and herself stumbled across their fair share of campers and even a few attendees "tripping out" during their stay. She still marks it as one of her favorite festivals she had the pleasure of attending.

The music festival experience has also lead to some musical creation of her own. Jessica writes and performs her own music with some of her very close friends and family. She feels that it allows her to express herself in a way that simply talking can't quite cover. She attributes music to her newfound positivity and hopes that it will continue to allow her to experience life and love in one of it's most beloved forms.



Playing Guitar
Contributed by Jessica Boyer

For more information on any of the music festivals mentioned in this piece, please visit the following websites.
www.thepeachfestival.com
www.vanswarpedtour.com