

A Bit of Me

This series of profiles on SUNY Broome community members is a part of the Student Village diversity calendar initiative. We will be highlighting members in our community who identify with or can speak on the diversity theme or topic for each month. The theme for February is Black History month and the topic is mental health in the black community. To be featured in this series please reach out to Pamela Alvarez or Alexandria Donkor.

Brandon Manning

SUNY Broome Student Rights and Responsibilities Coordinator



Background: Brandon earned his B.M. in Music Performance with a concentration in trumpet from the Crane School of Music (SUNY Potsdam), and is currently completing a M.S. in Student Affairs Administration from Binghamton University.

WHY STUDENT AFFAIRS?

I chose Student Affairs as a profession simply because it is a way for me to give back to students. When I think back to my undergraduate career I am reminded of the individuals who helped keep me on track and be a successful student. Knowing I can serve as a role model or mentor for students on a college campus, specifically students who look like me, fuels me to further progress in this profession.

WHAT INSTRUMENT(S) DO YOU PLAY AND WHAT LED YOU TO LEARNING THOSE INSTRUMENTS?

My primary instrument is Trumpet. Before switching to a degree in music performance, I was actually a music education major. As a music education major we were

required to take tech classes in order to become proficient in different instruments from all instrument families. I'm still able to pick up any instrument and carry a tune, but the trumpet is most certainly my instrument of expertise. I chose trumpet simply because I was astounded at how an instrument with only three buttons could play notes extremely fast, in multiple ranges and in multiple sizes.



DO YOU FEEL THAT MUSIC HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN YOUR LIFE?

Music has most definitely had a significant impact on my life. Music has always been a part of my life from being involved in music programs in my church and elementary through high school, and of course through college and beyond. Through music I've been able to travel to different countries, meet individuals I've only ever seen on TV or in the movies, teach, and of course meet some of my best friends.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GENRE OF MUSIC AND WHY?

This is always a hard question for me to answer as I've been known to have quite an eclectic taste in music. If someone put my iPod on shuffle and pressed play, the genres would jump from hip hop, to classical, jazz, heavy metal, R&B, world music and more. That said, if I truly had to narrow it down to one favorite genre, I'd label my favorite genre as Neo soul. Neo soul is a fusion of jazz, hip hop, soul, funk, rock, and other genres that create an avant-garde landscape of authentic conscious driven lyrics that celebrate the black culture and experience.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE MUSICAL ARTIST OR GROUP AND WHY?

Without hesitation, my answer is Prince. Prince was/is an icon whose music and influence will continue to stand the test of time and truly transcend all genres. Prince was an artist who was able to reinvent himself and his music time and time again. I listen intently to Prince's compositions. From his lyrics, his choices of instrumentation, his chordal structures, and the range he would choose to sing a song in, all of it continues to help me analyze aspects of other musicians. Up to this point in my life, the best concert I've ever been to has been a Prince concert.

WHAT MUSICAL ARTIST OR GROUP ARE YOU CURRENTLY LISTENING TO?

Besides always listening to Prince, I like to discover new artists. Two newer artists I am currently listening to are Gabriel Garzón-Montano and Moses Sumney. I am also listening to the album "Judas and the Black

Messiah: The Inspired Album" from the film Judas and the Black Messiah.

PRE-COVID, DID YOU EVER GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO A CONCERT, WHAT WAS IT LIKE AND WOULD YOU RECOMMEND IT?

I have had the opportunity to not just attend concerts, but to also perform in them. I would highly recommend the experience. Regardless of genre or artist, when you attend a concert there's a sense of excitement and magic in the air. Watching a musical artist or group perform on stage can be a life changing experience. It's easy to put on a song at home or on YouTube and watch a performance, but to actually be in a space physically where live music is happening...it's a beautiful thing. I cannot wait for the day to attend large concerts again. Collectively singing (or screaming) a musician's hit with hundreds, or thousands of people will never get old. I also cannot wait to get on a stage again to make music with colleagues. Backstage before performances I would often share with my colleagues a little mantra...this is someone's first time hearing you, and someone's last time hearing you, go out and make it special.

