

This summer I participated in the Mendocino Music Festival's "Emerging Artist" program, along with eleven other young adult musicians. I was surprised to learn that, although our musical backgrounds were similar, I was the only attendee who was married, hoping to start a family soon, and actively involved in religion. During the first couple days, I felt discouraged that these differences would make it impossible to connect with the other artists. I was grateful and excited when they started asking me questions such as, "What is it like to be married?", "Why don't you drink?", "What is BYU like?", and "How many kids do you want?". These frequent, heartfelt conversations quickly became the highlight of my festival experience. I was elated to openly share with my peers about the gospel truths that have shaped my life. Throughout the festival, I prayed that I could be a beacon of light to my new friends and that they would recognize the truth they were being taught. I have no doubt that my spiritually strengthening BYU education, which has nourished my testimony of these truths, prepared me for this unique opportunity to spread the light of Jesus Christ.