



Eric at his Johns Hopkins/Peabody Conservatory graduation.

Music. In that one word, you've captured Eric Engler's life and passion. This past year Eric earned his second Bachelor of Music degree from the prestigious Peabody Conservatory at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. First was Jazz Trumpet Performance. Next up, Bachelor of Music in Recording Arts. He also earned his Master of Arts in Audio Sciences, Acoustics Concentration. Yes, Eric Engler is all about the sound. And the music.

His passion was ignited in Chicago where he was born and lived through elementary school. Piano at age 5. Trumpet in 5th grade. He was well on his way. And then it was on to La Canada High School. Eric and his family arrived midway through his freshman year. "It was actually a good time to start at a new school. People notice you're a new face and go out of their way to look out for you." For Eric it meant straight to Men's Ensemble and zero period. And it was also straight to Jason Stone and the band program. Not many students can make the time to balance the combined commitment of LCHS Band and the LCHS Choral Music program. It was a no brainer for Eric. "It required getting creative at times, I probably didn't get a lot of sleep during high school, but Dr. Brookey and Mr. Stone made it all work." Eric noted he had enjoyed a

benefit that few other students experienced. "I love being involved in both. The choir room and the band room were places where I felt completely at home. I spent most of my free time in one of those rooms, but I loved it."

Concert Choir was home to Eric his sophomore year, one in which he remembers being critical in his development. "If it's not already obvious," Eric says, "Dr. Brookey is one of the more special teachers I ever had. I was amazed at how much he cared about the students individually, as people, and how much he cared for the performances and the quality of the music. And those two things were never in competition with each other."

Next stop was Chamber Singers and the infamous Chamber retreats which provided Eric a lifelong memory. "We were standing in the chapel in our chamber sweatshirts, singing *Sleep* by Eric Whitacre, and in that moment, something really special happened. It's hard to explain, but we felt it. Dr. Brookey was crying. It had a big impact."

Once he arrived in Baltimore, Eric was more than a little busy, including working Sundays. Church services provide an up and coming audio engineer plenty of opportunities for work and Eric took full advantage. Three churches throughout the greater Baltimore area called Eric their Audio Engineer.

All that is part of the on-the-job training that the Peabody Conservatory encourages. And that thirst for experience sent Eric up the east coast to Massachusetts, where he had the opportunity to work with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for two summers during the world-renowned Tanglewood Music Festival. He liked it so much he recently moved to Boston, where the next phase of his career is taking off. Eric has taken a job as an audio engineer at New England Conservatory, an all-music, independent music school. Located just a block and half from Symphony Hall in Boston, Eric says he wanders down the street to hang with his engineer friends from the Boston Symphony. Music is what makes Eric Engler who and what he is.

"Music is not what I do. It's who I am"
Eric Engler, LCHS Class of 2014