

Story of Jay Hung

Grew up in a poor family in Taiwan in 1971, Jay Hung had neither environment nor relationship that allowed him to be part of music.

“Piano is not for boys, it is for girls.”

His traditional parents did not understand music and they did not allow him to get any musical instrument. Although his family did not support the boy, Jay did not give up on his heart of loving in music. He managed to self-study music of his own by using a second hand piano which was left abandoned by someone else.

In 1985 high school period, Jay did not like to go to school. He was interested in the sound of the synthesizer. He purchased his first Casio KB CZ-1 with a loan to have the opportunity to experiment distorted synthesizer sound. He simulated many records to learn the different types of noises. **“Adults around me, including my teachers and parents thought I was crazy, and they were convinced that I will have no future.”**

After graduated from high school Jay entered Taiwanese military for few years. One day, he learned that Hollywood Musicians Institute was offering international students. He recorded a demo into compact cassette for audition and submitted to school. **“Getting accepted was a wonderful feeling, but I had no money to fly to LA, live in LA, and pay for tuition”**. The wall was tall, but it was Jay’s dream. He worked his ass off in pub every night to make as much as possible.

Finally, Jay left Taiwan in 1996 to Hollywood, Los Angeles for further music education at Musicians Institute (KIT). There he learned Jazz / Funk / Rock and other music elements. He studied under the guidance of great master Steve Weingart and Rique Pantoja; however, their teaching was strict and never taken lightly.

He also met other students from all over the world studying music. Many of them came from wealthy family, so their tuition and living were supported by their parents. **“Being aware of the difference in life, I was determined to practice 6-8 hours of piano every day to make sure the study will pay off for future.”** Many times Jay met financial difficulty that he had to borrow money from classmates in order to keep up with the living in LA.

“When I came back to Taiwan, I only had total of \$100 cash in pocket and some debt.” Jay was homeless for a while, and he was sleeping in his friend’s living room floor.

Now Jay is one of sought-after keyboard player in Asian pop music industry. Since 2000 - 2018 Jay has done more than 500 concerts, mostly for Hong Kong, Taiwanese, and Chinese top famous artists. His position in the concert is usually Band Leader, Music Director, or Keyboard Player. He also played keyboard in many TV shows in China. In addition, Jay has arranged more than 300 pop music in Asia.

With the 17 years of professional music experience, Jay feels he now has a strong heart to complete his own creative album. In 2018, he released his first new jazz fusion album “110 West” featuring Grammy Award winning Trumpetist Randy Brecker and many other great musicians from all over the world.

When I ask Jay to sum up his life in a sentence:

“Discouragement could put people down, but I took it as energy to go forward and beyond.”

-Written by Seiko E.

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