

03/23/15

**From:** Ava Suppelsa

**Regarding:** The Bitter Jester Music Festival in Highland Park

Being a part of the Bitter Jester Music Festival has significantly helped me in my life as a musician. I didn't even win, and I continue to receive benefits and help with my music through connections I made there.

I got a chance to perform at the Grand Finale competition as a featured performer and I played to 2,500 people - the biggest crowd I had performed for at the time. I also got a chance to play on WGN radio with Patti Vasquez, and I made a connection with her and have since interviewed and played on her show two times, with more to come in the future.

On top of all this, I made friends with somebody in the winning band who later referred me to a booking agent who booked me at the Beat Kitchen in Chicago. I played there two weeks ago and it was one of my favorite shows I've played. It wouldn't have happened without my participation in the Bitter Jester Music Festival.

I didn't have to win my Friday competition to feel like I won. Almost a year later, I'm still using the connections and opportunities made through Bitter Jester to support my career in music. I plan on participating this summer and would recommend it to any young musician looking to gain exposure and make connections that will support them and nurture them in the music industry.

Ava Suppelsa  
Musician