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## Why the Bitter Jester Music Fest Rocks!

By Tess Considine (former contestant)

For me, the Bitter Jester Music Fest truly rocked. Not only did it give me the opportunity to express myself and perform, but it also gave me a multitude of opportunities. From meeting other bands, to getting interviewed on the radio, I grew and expanded so much as an individual and musician.

I became more self-aware as a singer/songwriter by playing for people whom I did not know. I received both praise and constructive criticism that has only helped me develop more as an artist.

From signing up, all the way to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, I had such a fun time participating in this festival. I got to be interviewed about my music, and I had the chance to meet so many other high school students who play and write music like I do. Even though I do not go to Highland Park High School, I was able to interact with students from there and also bring my friends outside of Highland Park to the events. This only added more people to the large crowd. At the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, there were a couple thousand people there by the end of the night. That night, as well as playing on WGN and WBEZ, gave me great exposure. People even came to my gigs afterwards, and they told me they came because they heard me on the radio. This only proves how helpful Bitter Jester's Music Fest is to young, emerging artists.

Personally, I believe the Bitter Jester Music Festival adds something valuable and truly exceptional for the community. In general, schools have plays for theater kids, and sports games for sporty kids, but there is very little effort and inclusion for competitions and showcases for musicians and bands. Bitter Jester offers that for the kids like me, who want to express their thoughts through music.

Tess Considine