

MATTIE: MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY MY NAME IS MATTIE TOM. I SING I PLAY THE VIOLIN AND PIANO THERE I MEAN I JUST LOVE MUSIC

[RISE UP FADES IN AND OUT]

RACHEL: SO YOU PERFORMED ON MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY ON OCTOBER 5TH THIS YEAR WHAT SONGS DID YOU PERFORM?

MATTIE: I PERFORMED VALERIE, RISE UP AND THEN RIGHT TO BE WRONG. AFTER I FINISHED THE PERFORMANCE I MEAN IT'S JUST KIND OF FELT LIKE A BREATH OF RELIEF

RACHEL: WITH ALL THESE SONGS LIKE VALERIE AND RISE UP AND EVERYTHING HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SOUND?

MATTIE: DEFINITELY UNLIKE MORE R&B I DON'T KNOW I REALLY LIKE OKAY SO LIKE THIS IS SOUND WEIRD BECAUSE I'M LIKE THIS LITTLE TINY WHITE GIRL THAT'S LIKE DOESN'T REALLY TALK MUCH BUT EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE I REALLY HAVE LOVE LIKE GOSPEL MUSIC. AND LIKE I DON'T KNOW JUST LIKE ARETHA FRANKLIN ETTA JAMES AND I LOVE JAZZ AND BLUES AND R&B

HEATHER: RIGHT WELL I AM HEATHER RAMSEY AND I AM MATTIE TOM'S VOCAL COACH

RACHEL: HEATHER HAD BEEN MATTIE'S VOCAL COACH FOR YEARS AND SHE DESCRIBES HER OVERALL SOUND

HEATHER: I'D SAY SOUL WITH A GOSPEL LIKE THE SOUL CAKE WITH GOSPEL FROSTING.

[VALERIE FADES IN]

RACHEL: WITH YOUR SOUND AND R&B AND EVERYTHING, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE LIKE YOUR MUSICAL INFLUENCES AND WHO YOU LOOK UP TO IN MUSIC?

MATTIE: OKAY SO MY DAD AND MY MOM THEY WOULD LIKE THEIR HOUSE SO THEY WOULD PLAY LIKE THE TEMPTATIONS THEY PLAY STEVIE WONDER

RACHEL: YOU TALKED ABOUT HOW YOUR FAMILY PLAYS THE RADIO ALL THE TIME AT YOUR HOUSE AND YOU'RE GOING UP AND EVERYTHING WITH THAT HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN MUSIC LIKE HOW TO GET STARTED?

MATTIE: WELL IF YOU WANT TO BE TECHNICAL IT WAS LIKE IN THE KITCHEN AND I WAS LIKE WHEN MY MOM WOULD COOK LIKE I TAKE ALL THE POTS AND PANS AND LEG SET UP A DRUM SET AND I WAS LIKE OH NO I'M A ROCKSTAR AND START PLAYING AND SO I MEAN I GUESS THAT'S HOW I GOT STARTED I KIND OF I DON'T KNOW EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE I'VE ALWAYS LIKED DANCED AROUND AND SANG AND WHEN I WAS FIVE I STARTED PLAYING THE VIOLIN SO THAT WAS IT WAS AN EARLY START

RACHEL: SO SINCE THEN HOW DO YOU DEVELOP YOUR MUSIC SKILLS?

MATTIE: WELL I SEE A VOICE COACH, I SEE VIOLIN TEACHER SO I MEAN IT'S REALLY I MEAN JUST ABOUT EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE AND YES PRACTICE DOES MAKE PERFECT UNFORTUNATELY I MEAN EVEN IF I'M IN THE CAR AND I'M JUST SAYING I CONSIDER THAT PRACTICING

RACHEL: SO WITH YOUR OWN SONGS LIKE DO YOU ONLY DO COVERS HAVE YOU GONE INTO TRYING TO WRITE SONGS LIKE WHERE ARE YOU AT WITH THEM?

MATTIE: BUT LIKE I'VE TRIED TO WRITE SONGS I THINK I JUST NEED TO PRACTICE AT IT CUZ IT'S KIND OF A HARD THING TO DO IF YOU JUST LIKE AREN'T IN THE RIGHT MINDSET OR LIKE I DON'T KNOW IF YOU DON'T HAVE LIKE A SOLID IDEA THAT IT'S JUST LIKE A REALLY REALLY HARD TO DO. SO LIKE THE FIRST SONG I WROTE WAS RAINBOWS AND CLOVERS IT WAS ABOUT RAINBOWS AND CLOVERS. I WROTE ABOUT THAT AND WE HAD TO WRITE IT I HAD TO WRITE IT CUZ I WAS IN A SONGWRITING CAMP IT WAS JAMMING BECAUSE I HAD A BAND AND WE'RE LIKE WHAT LIKE 11 TRYING TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY THE INSTRUMENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME AND WROTE A SONG. IT WAS IT ACTUALLY CAME TOGETHER REALLY WELL

RACHEL: WHAT WAS THE NAME OF YOUR BAND?

MATTIE: THE FLAMING TWIZZLERS

RACHEL: YOU'VE CHANGED FROM THE FLAMING TWIZZLERS TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW, WHERE AS YOU'RE STILL DEVELOPING ALL OF YOUR MUSIC, WHERE DO YOU EXPECT TO TAKE IT IN THE FUTURE?

MATTIE: WELL RIGHT NOW AS A SENIOR I'M LIKE TRYING TO GET AUDITION VIDEOS TOGETHER FOR COLLEGE. I'M REALLY ON THE EDGE BECAUSE I KINDA WANT TO MAJOR IN MUSIC BUT I REALLY WANT TO MAJOR IN CHEMISTRY SO IMAGINE THAT.

HEATHER: I THINK MATTIE CAN GO WHEREVER SHE WANTS TO GO AND SHE IS ONE OF THE HARDEST WORKING WOMAN I KNOW SO I THINK SHE CAN GO ANYWHERE SHE LIKE TO GO

MATTIE: MUSIC IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE THERE FOR ME WHETHER I'M IN
SCHOOL OR WHEREVER

[END OF MITL FADES IN]

RACHEL: FOR BEHIND THE MUSEIC AND WHJE THIS HAS BEEN RACHEL LACY.

FIND FOR STORIES LIKE THIS AND MORE OF MY EPISODES ONLINE AT WHJE DOT
COM

[CLAPPING FADES OUT]