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Donor # 4297 Interview Notes

Donor 4297 comes across initially as dorky and a little shy. At first his laid-back nature makes him seem introverted, but as I spent more time with him he was fun and became more engaging. When I asked him about music - he really lit up. His love for music, especially all of the minute details of it, is charming. He explained to me about the construction of music, the layering of sound, composition processes and the simple sound of it all. He said, shyly again but with a note of pride, that he has been teaching himself the banjo for the last six years. Recently he has started merging banjo with the electronic music he makes; he was excited about all of the possibilities and quick to talk about the things he was discovering about that type of sound. In this instance his creative nature came out and he expressed his fascination with creating wholly new kinds of sound.

Donor 4297 grew up in a military family with an older sister and a twin brother. He and his twin seem very different – his brother is a firefighter – but as they have gotten older they have appreciated each other more and more. Donor 4297's father and grandfather were both in the military. The Donor's grandfather helped develop radio communication technology in the Air Force. He joked that his family was the only one he knew that had pieces of planes lying around the house. Although he grew up in the military, his family did not move around as much as most military families. The donor said that he was grateful for this. He strikes me as someone who appreciates familiarity and routine. He became an Eagle Scout in his teens and hopes to someday teach younger Boy Scouts some of the skills he has learned.

Donor 4297 wore a slightly frayed baseball cap and casual clothing. His appearance reflected his laid back nature, from his well-worn shoes to his scruffy goatee. He seems to be good at finding a balance for himself between extroversion and introversion. It is important for him to have alone time in order to feel grounded, but he is personable and friendly. It is clear that his friends are also important to him, and he really enjoys the time he spends making music with other musicians. He seemed to know himself well, a quality I admired in him.

Interviewer: Alex Holding

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