

“Profile Story”

This week’s feature : Brandon M. Bilek



Brandon was born in Cleveland, Ohio and grew up in Willoughby where he spent the majority of his life before moving to the west side in 2020. He attended Immaculate Conception School and graduated as the school’s last class in 2010. He went on to South High School before going to Lakeland Community College to pursue computer science. After having studied it for several years, something told him it wasn’t working out. After obtaining an associates of arts degree, he jumped into studying the diverse field of audio engineering. This he considers his most fulfilling career decision as it blends his love of music and technology.

Brandon grew up with one brother, Matthew, who is 3 years his junior and has at least seven inches on him. He met his soon-to-be fiancée at a local music venue in Lakewood, Ohio after a long day at work. Brandon met up with his friend who introduced him to Chloe. He tried to playfully argue with her, and she shot back with equally clever responses (much to his pleasant surprise). They discovered they had a lot in common. He had to leave so

he sent her a mixtape of some parodic hiphop songs he had made (although Brandon considered them to be quite terrible). Come the next morning Chloe had sent a text saying she thought they were hysterical. That was almost 5 years ago and now they are getting engaged this year!

He has had a number of different jobs. Brandon has done manual labor in his hometown's service department taking care of storm ditches, painting, janitorial work, making pizzas at a local shop and factory work up until 3 years ago. He now works in sales at North Olmsted Guitar Center, running sound here at POP and working on client mixes at his private studio: Blue Vulture Audio. He finds this current work ventures much more enjoyable. He came onto the POP team in July of 2022. Our previous sound technician, Ben Ubienski, is a very good friend. As Ben discussed his departure and asked Brandon to take over, he gladly accepted the offer! While joining the POP crew, he was seeking not only to sharpen his audio skills, but to deliver the message Christ left for us as well. Brandon believes God puts us here on this earth for a reason; his is to deliver his message through means of sound. He operates the board for Sunday services and practices, alongside offering assistance for weddings and funerals.

Brandon has many interests and hobbies to enjoy in his off time. Music and creating music is his big one. Electronic and its subgenres are his current favorite. Having a background in IT and an extensive list of video games he played growing up, the rhythms and themes come naturally and near effortlessly. Music can be done in many new ways, and Brandon is skilled at discovering methods that are on the cutting edge or even primitive. His current method has been recording all of his songs onto an old VCR machine for that "poor man's" reel-to-reel tape sound. Backpacking and spending time outdoors is a close second. God's creation is something to be treasured! He believes taking a break from our digitally-saturated lives is necessary to maintain a healthy body and mind. We all can benefit from taking a day (or five) going into our beautiful natural world.

Something that people may not know about Brandon is he can tell you just about anything about flamingos! Another tidbit is his thumbs are double

joined. His philosophy of life centers around living in community with one another. He reminds us that our actions speak louder than words. What we do for others and ourselves can shine the light of Christ everywhere we go, no matter how insignificant it may seem in the moment. One action can be enough to make the difference in someone's life. Wise words indeed! You'll find him at the sound board offering his Time and Talents with enthusiasm.

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter