

**Slide 2:** This is a quote that I came up with during my junior year. It says, "We are the ones who make music, but music also makes us who we are." These words ended up being published in the 2017 Atlanta Community Choral Festival pamphlet. These words resonate with me because they express exactly how I feel about my musical years in Chorus. I wouldn't be who I am today without music, and music has become a true stronghold in my life.

**Slide 3:** Walton highly values academic competitiveness. However, it is with Chorus that I was able to find my personal competitive side. Women's Concert Choir and Bel Canto set the stage for me to begin appreciating and understanding the value of my voice. In that time, I started becoming serious about singing. After joining A Cappella, I became the most committed to singing than I had ever been. Using the skills I acquired from my choral experiences, I went on to win the GMTA category for 11th grade voice in 2017 and have participated in more competitions and events since then.

**Slide 4:** Chorus has also taught me that life isn't just about showing your skills. Fall semester, I took a small group of A Cappella members to sing at a suicide prevention walk for Tyler Kleinrichert, a student who passed away last year. We sang 3 songs for his family and friends, and we all experienced emotions that day that we can't describe in words now. Our directors Ms. Taylor and Dr. Williams always talk to us about how choirs and music are meant to spread light in a dark world, and I am grateful for the opportunities like this one that we've been given to see the actual meaning of this statement.

**Slide 5:** Chorus has also given me experiences to grow more confident as a person. I'm usually the quiet little soprano in A Cappella who has trouble expressing her feelings. I'm still like that, but I've also changed. In January, I performed for the first (and sadly, last) time at the annual Walton Chorus Fashion Show. Since I did a duet, I learned to communicate with my partner and to work together with everyone who was in the show. Most importantly, I came out a happier, more confident person, because I came on a brightly-lit stage, saw a full crowd, and conquered.

**Slide 6:** While Chorus has shaped me into who I am at this very moment, the value of music that it has taught me will never fade. I'm still waiting on college decisions, but wherever I go, I will join an A Cappella-like group where I can continue to work on expressing myself and become a better singer, student, and person. This is a picture of Trinity College Choir, the choir Dr. Williams always talks about. This is the kind of choir I want to join in the future. A choir that truly enjoys singing and wants music to make the world a better place, as cliché as that may sound. I am now also strongly gearing towards minoring in voice, which would never have passed my mind if not for Chorus. In the real long-term, as in even when I've graduated from college and have moved on to grad school and adulthood, the lessons I've learned regarding my value as a person and the value and power of music will never cease to be a part of me.

**Slide 7:** Like the title on this sheet of music, I have music in my soul, <sup>says</sup> ~~too~~ <sub>v also</sub> Music is in my soul now, and thanks to Walton Chorus, it will be in my soul forever. Thank you for listening to my presentation.