

# MARCHING BEYOND HALFTIME

My name is Sara Flatow and I was in band from the seventh grade through my senior year at the University of Florida. I have so many fond memories—from perfecting my clarinet embouchure to marching in front of thousands of screaming football fans. I had the time of my life, made lifelong friends, and I cherished every moment. I knew band was fun and good for me, but I really didn't understand the impact it had on my life until much later.

In January of 2012, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. This sent me on an unprecedented journey that took everything I had to get through. The skills I developed in band—determination, listening, and resilience—all proved critical in my fight. After nine surgeries and countless procedures, the power and importance of music education has never been more clear to me.

Over and over I hear stories just like mine—people with real-world challenges who derive strength from their music. It pains me to hear that arts programs are being cut throughout the country. Countless studies show that the benefits of these classes are vast and last a lifetime. What other academic subject or activity engages the whole brain and, in the case of marching band, the whole body?

**Something must be done.**



[WWW.MARCHINGBEYONDDHALFTIME.COM](http://WWW.MARCHINGBEYONDDHALFTIME.COM)

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I was unable to sit idly by and watch these critical education programs get gutted. I decided it was time to make a film that captured what band is really about. Far too many people (including those making budgetary decisions) think a band's job is to entertain a crowd during halftime at a football game. They do not know any better. And that's on us.

Our goal is simple: we want to use this film to raise awareness about the far-reaching impact of music education. From discipline to teamwork, our documentary film will showcase what a great music education can do for children. Just as importantly, it will focus on how the skills and bonds created in their music education will influence the rest of their lives no matter what path they take.

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We are titling our documentary *Marching Beyond Halftime* and, with your help in producing the film, we will deliver a copy to **every single member** of the United States Congress.



## About the Filmmaker **Sara Flatow**

*Graduate of the University of Florida*  
*Who's Who in Music*  
*Producers Guild of America*

Sara lives in Los Angeles and works as a producer in Hollywood. For over 20 years, she has collaborated with some of the most prominent actors, directors, and producers to create behind-the-scenes content for several popular shows including: *Grey's Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Scandal*, and *How To Get Away With Murder*.

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