

Tsui and Schneider Take Music Back

Yale students Sam Tsui and Kurt Schneider rise to musical popularity

By Ryan O'Callaghan
Staff Writer

REVIEW

Sam Tsui and Kurt Schneider: the cure for the common music industry.

Today's popular music tends to stray away from what music should be.

The Ke\$ha(s) of the world are gaining a dose of fame for essentially talking and having their voices auto-tuned, while they shed their clothes and dip their bodies in glitter.

The music industry has become less about skilled singers and musicians.

Despite my love for Katy Perry, I must admit that she cannot sing. She is a picture of beauty that, with some interesting quirks and a touch of sound editing technology, becomes an artist.

This is a cry for artists to come back to the industry. Those with real vocal skill, those who write beautiful songs, those who have all of the real talent.

In a black [Eyed Peas] haze of bad quality, there is a light of hope for music. There are young people out there who can sing. Those who have great ears for what music should sound like. There are Sam Tsui and Kurt Schneider.

Since 2008, the Yale student, Sam Tsui, has been uploading videos with his longtime friend and classmate, Kurt Schneider.



photo provided by thestarscoop.com

Sam Tsui and Kurt Schneider performs their song "Start Again"

Schneider, who produces the videos, had originally intended for Tsui to sing with a girl, but when she dropped out at the last minute, Tsui sang both parts. With a little fine tuning the two tracks came together.

Since then, Tsui has done a ton more solos. His most popular renditions are "Don't Stop Believing" (Glee style) and a medley of Michael Jackson songs.

What makes Tsui special is not the gimmick of him doing the multiple vocal parts.

Tsui is skilled with his vocals, but more importantly, he has fun. It's quite evident in the way he performs. That quality is so much more interesting than what a lot of music is today.

Since their start on YouTube, Tsui and Schneider have gained over 750,000 subscribers on their channel and over 200 million video views.

They have appeared on "The Bonnie Hunt Show," "Oprah," and "Ellen." Six months ago, they

released their first original song, "Don't Want an Ending."

They also worked on a show they made on YouTube called "College Musical," a spoof on Disney's "High School Musical." It ran four episodes, and they recently announced that they are working on a "College Musical" movie.

Since March of last year, Schneider and his friend Jake Bruene have been facing off in what they call "Kurt & Jake's Epic Video Battle."

The story goes like this: Schneider was playing a recorder. Bruene told him that nobody can play an actual song on a recorder. In response, Schneider played "Baby" by Justin Bieber (quite well) on the recorder and posted the video. Since then the two have been battling with outlandish instruments (like Rihanna's "Only Girl in the World" on a zither).

I'm rooting for these guys. I hope they make it big. They deserve it.