Hi, I'm Trent Heddings and today I'm going to talk to you about my favorite pastime. For me, that pastime is creating music.

It all started when I was about first grade. My elementary school was holding a school carnival of sorts over the weekend. And all throughout the classrooms there were games, or kids and teachers, parents could enter. Try to win whatever prizes they were giving away. In the cafeteria of my school, was the main raffle room where all the big prizes were. None of them really caught my attention except one and that happened to be a jet black Fender Squire Bullet guitar. All my friends and classmates around me were leaning in saying [whispering] “Oh that looks like such a cool guitar. I gotta win that to be a rock star.” Stuff like that that little kids like to say. Something inside me thought, I need to get that guitar. That’s got to be mine, not theirs. Mine.

And I happened to be deemed chaperoned by my grandmother that day and I somehow convinced her to buy and shove ten raffle tickets into that raffle box. Hope that I won [crosses fingers on both hands]. And about an hour goes by or so. They’re going down the line of all the different prizes and the teacher announcer on stage comes up with a box for the guitar, reaches her hand in, pulls out a raffle ticket, she looks at it and reads “And the winner is Trent Hodgins.” And I was devastated because I didn’t win. And that clearly was not my name. I was also surprised that there was another Trent at my school, and they had an eerily similar last name. And then that teacher corrected herself and said “Oh, I’m sorry. I meant Trent Heddings”. And I jumped up and I ran to the stage. I got my prize, and I was overjoyed that I had won. It was probably the greatest experience I had ever seen in all my six years.

And then, seven years goes down the line, and it’s just a wall decoration. Never learned to play until I was about the age 13, from guitar lessons downtown. And then, after taking those lessons and realizing that I could play this thing, I realized this was my one true passion. This was my biggest hobby. This is something that I could actually do, and do well, apparently. Maybe form a career out of it. I remember sitting up in my room hours on end playing the first riff that I ever learned, that was the opening riff to “Rock and Roll” by Led Zeppelin. I didn’t even know the rest of the song, but I would sit there and play the song, this one riff over and over again. And just feel enthralled that I could create this. I could do it on my own. It was such a cool sound coming from me.

I eventually started learning to write my own songs, in my head really, and wanting to do more with it. I didn’t really know what to do and I ended up meeting fellow musicians about my age around town. We’d meet up and jam and we started our own band. And then the next thing that kind of brought me to where I am now, was meeting my neighbor down behind my house. And he was a musician as well and supported my passion for it. And he lent me this eight-track digital recorder to record my own music with it. I was [gasps] I can finally make my own music. I could show it to people. I could take it to places. I could put it on the internet, people would see it. I plugged in my amp
too. I’d record my riff. I’d layer it. I’d burn it onto a CD. Put it on a computer. And there, I had my own song. It was the worst quality you could ever imagine to hear a song in, but as a teenager, it’s pretty professional sounding. And I’d take these and show them to my friends and my bandmates. And we’d turn it to a full grown band song, masterpiece. And we started playing shows around town. We’d invite all our friends. They thought we were going to be huge, so did we. It was the most fun we’d ever had.

Obviously, that didn’t really happen. And we’re not a band anymore. That was years ago. But I still hold onto the writing aspect of creating music now in my adult age. I have my own, somewhat of a recording studio, which really just consists of a desk, a computer with music software, a digital recording interface, and obviously, my instruments. [Exhales] Even as an adult, working full-time, going to school full-time, always being stressed out, not having much to do - I always find time to sit down and have a good writing session, and fully express myself with any emotion that I want to create, any sound that I want to make.