Finn
2nd Place
4th Grade, Covington School

Did you ever think that a musical instrument could save your life? Well, I certainly didn't, until I heard the story of my late great grandfather Harold and his harmonica. I always knew that music was one of our family's greatest passions but I never knew it had a big impact on our story. The harmonica was more than fun and games for Harold. He believed it saved his life.

The story was set 65 years before I was born, when my great grandfather served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. When Harold left his home in Louisiana he brought his harmonica with him. He played songs like "When the Saints Go Marching In" for the soldiers around a campfire. The commanding officer heard Harold and asked if he could teach him how to play. Then Harold went from being on the front lines to being the commanding officer's driver. Harold never taught him how to play a full song. I think this is funny and smart because it kept him from going back to the front lines, where many soldiers lost their lives in combat. For the rest of his life Harold believed the harmonica saved him from being injured or even killed.

When I heard this story, I was surprised that a small instrument made a huge difference on all the generations that came after Harold, like me. Even though I never met Harold, I know we both like the feeling it brings to play music for people. It's interesting that each generation since Harold's played music. Harold bought my grandfather a trumpet, my dad found joy in singing, and I love to sing, dance, and act on stage. I think that music is important because it brings happiness to everybody around you.