

be Still

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Rhythm

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While clinical medicine is an intellectual creative art form, surgery is a performance art form. The composure, precision, grace, focus, and command needed to execute a procedure to perfection is not so different from that which is needed to execute a musical performance. The parallels are magical.

ARTIST STATEMENT: DIVY MEHRA

RHYTHM

Take a seat on your throne. Grab the sticks, one in each hand. One twirl. The music starts.

Left foot down, close the hi-hat. Half notes to start.

The music builds. Right foot down, feel the bass. Hold it steady.

Time for a fill, make it clean, announce your entrance. The crash cymbal rings, and you are off to the races.

The hi-hat is the funk, the bass is the anchor, the snare is the star.

Be precise. Hold your composure.

Hold the bass steady. Hold the tempo.

You control the room.

Get excited, time for a fill.

Transition back. Hold it steady.

Be precise. Hold the tempo.

Feel the rhythm.

The music stops. Breathe.

Ready for the next one.

Divy Mehra is a third year medical student. His interests include medical writing, the humanities, meditation, and music.

ABOUT THE POET