

Angela Zhang

Grade 7

Warren Township Middle School

DIVERSITY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

Celebrating diversity is absolutely imperative in society. It is essential in not only achieving equality across the globe, but also in assuring that people acknowledge the differences that make the world magnificent. Without differences, life would be unimaginative and terribly monotonous. As humans continue to celebrate differences, they are able to appreciate certain aspects within our multitudinous cultures, such as in music. Music plays a significant part in many people's lives since it is heard almost daily, so it can be the epitome of honoring diversity. One example of a culturally different music genre other than American music would be BTS, a Korean pop music group.

BTS is one of the most popular music groups in the entire world. With their dedication and determination, they were able to sing and dance their way into the hearts of millions of people globally, become one of the most successful groups in the history of Korean Pop Culture, and inspire people everywhere to work hard for their dreams. After their debut in 2013, BTS became one of the biggest breakthroughs in the media as they spoke about diversity. In fact, numerous fans are located right here in New Jersey! BTS created music about their hardships, differences, and the perseverance they had. This uncommon approach was successful at grasping the attention of global media, and also in inspiring the young adults of the world, with lyrics such as, "If you don't work hard, then there won't be good results." Almost immediately, millions of people and musical artists across the globe were not only able to relate to the palpable messages that they shared with their albums, but also found it intriguing and impressive that the group was able to dance, sing, and rap equally well as their US counterparts. The K-Pop group quickly became more mainstream with their catchy, upbeat, and meaningful songs, and their songs were able to make it in the top 10s for the Billboard Top 200s. Although BTS is a Korean music group, they have fans who admire them from every part of the universe. Fans, including ones from New Jersey, are able to admire diversity, since Korean music is different than what they would usually hear in their country. In

addition, BTS won the Billboard Music Award for Top Social Artist in 2017. Not only was it an amazing accomplishment for BTS, but it was a groundbreaking moment for the K-Pop industry as it was an award won outside of their country. As increased amounts of countries recognize various music styles, cultures, and artists from all over, they are able to realize that people's differences are actually able to bring everyone closer together.

After the award, the members were incredibly humble and expressed their gratitude for their supporters. They explained how they want to incorporate more diversity into their music so additional people could listen and relate to it. They continued performing a song on stage, and the audience reacted enthusiastically as they sang and danced along. Later on during their performance, some audience members took to social media to explain their confusion as to why a Korean music group was performing at an American music award show. One example would be a Twitter user asking, "Who are these people and why does it seem like everyone knows who they are?" Tweets like those expressed how not everyone was used to seeing variation in the performing arts field. Fortunately, there were also many people who enjoyed watching something that they were not used to seeing on television. In fact, after the performance, BTS gained the attention of an even more diverse fan group, including American artists such as Camilla Cabello and Shawn Mendes. BTS' differences from American music helped people realize that diversity is important, and some people even found a new music genre to start listening to. In the end, their performances and appearances worldwide are all for the better, as many people will begin appreciating the styles from everywhere around the world. This will eventually teach people to appreciate and celebrate differences not only in music, but in general. As more people begin to acknowledge, recognize, and honor diversity, such as the different music cultures, the human race is able to add one more thing to the long and wonderful list of differences that they celebrate.

To this day, BTS continues to incorporate myriads of inspiring messages into their diverse projects, all while attracting new fans. It is amazing how they are able to create things that not only Koreans can appreciate, but the whole world. While more K-Pop fans unite together to celebrate something that they have in common, it can be seen that celebrating diversity is able to bring people from

all over the world together. Music is a universal language, and it is something that can be appreciated by everyone, no matter where the person is from. BTS is simply one of the exceedingly versatile K-Pop groups, and K-Pop is only one of the culturally different and diverse music styles. Music is the perfect example of how dissimilarities are truly beneficial; people can experience the different styles across the world and use them to inspire their own creative ways. BTS' music is another of the numerous contributions that allows diverse people within society to bond over. It is critical that humans are able to not only respect and tolerate diversity, but also to accept and commemorate our differences that make the world a more enjoyable place. Like stated before, without the differences among humans, life would be plain and dull. Fortunately, that's not the case, so people can continue to enjoy and celebrate the heterogeneity that makes humans unique. Diversity in the music industry helps people to develop a love for the amazing culture that our world possesses, and if we can admire the diversity in the field of performing arts, then we can appreciate and celebrate the diversity that there is in New Jersey and the entire world.