

Music Sets One Freshman Free

Every day around lunchtime, the Student Union transforms into a concert hall. You'll still see the pool and ping pong tables, Wii games and lounge chairs. But what you'll *hear* isn't anything being pumped over the loud speakers.

From Bach to Chopin (and even the occasional original composition) freshman Antoine Plume spends a little time each day playing piano in the main hall. Plume — who is pursuing a [degree in Global Business](#) — says these daily 'mini-concerts' help him keep a focus on his studies.

"I'm pretty much always happy. If something does go wrong, I figure I can either mope around, or I can play a song."



*Freshman Antoine Plume
at the Student Union piano*

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From the Battlefield to Beethoven

Plume's music therapy has become infectious, and he jokes about attracting a small following of fellow students.

In fact, support is something that Plume knows well. A U.S. Navy veteran, he's one of the many students who are attending ERAU under the [Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Yellow Ribbon Program](#) — which covers most of the costs of attending college.

While in the Navy, Plume served tours in Europe and Asia, where he worked in aeronautics intelligence. When it came time to move into the private sector, Plume says he knew Embry-Riddle would be his first stop.

"What I'm good at — and what I want to do with my life — is intelligence. So I searched around, talked to some different colleges, and got a feel for what they were going to offer. They were all a pretty good fit for what I want to do, but only Embry-Riddle seemed to really 'get it.'"

Finding a Place at ERAU

Plume says one of the things he likes best about Embry-Riddle is the approachable professors.

"Dr. [Leahn] Chen is hilarious! All my teachers have doctorates, but they're cool and really know what they're talking about."

Plume has made an impression on Dr. Chen, as well.

"Antoine is enthusiastic to learn about other cultures and languages. Last week, I was singing a Chinese children's song that was related to the class content. No one else but Antoine was willing to sing with me. Not only did he sing, but he was rather accurate."

At Home with International Study

As part of the Global Business program, Plume will study abroad in China next year. He also plans a summer internship in Washington, D.C., where Embry-Riddle enjoys a solid networking relationship with security and intelligence agencies — including the FBI and the CIA.