

MUSIC NEXT DOOR

by

Sydney Bennett

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

SKYLAR, 22, wears a casual floral dress. She has a deaf accent. She sits on her bed and writes on sheet music.

GABE (V.O.)
A new girl moved in next door.

GABE, 20, wears glasses, jeans and a fitted t-shirt, looks out his balcony window to her. The two balconies are close together.

Skylar picks up her guitar and plays original pop music.

GABE (V.O.)(CONT'D)
She plays the same page of music.

Skylar puts down her guitar. She shakes her head and looks at her music.

GABE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I've heard it so many times. I can
play it back.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

Gabe plays his guitar on the balcony. It's the same tune as what Skylar played.

GABE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I wish she would look over here.
The song she writes sounds like
Carly Rae Jepsen and Harry Styles
did a mashup.

The TITLE appears on screen: Music Next Door

UNDER TITLE: 4 Weeks to Final Performance

INT. BEDROOM/EXT. BALCONY - NEXT DAY

Skylar plays a new page of her music.

She plays the page over and over.

Skylar sits on her bed and stares at the pages. Pebbles clink against her balcony window. She doesn't notice.

GABE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Even throwing pebbles at her window
hasn't...

Skylar opens her balcony doors, a pebble hits her. She looks over to see Gabe.

GABE (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry.

Skylar picks up the pebble. She throws it back to Gabe. He chortles catching the pebble.

GABE (CONT'D)
Sorry again. I was just trying to
get your attention.

SKYLAR
Oh?

GABE
The music you play. It's beautiful.

SKYLAR
Oh.

GABE
I played both your pieces.

SKYLAR
How?

GABE
I have a good ear.

Gabe taps on his ear.

SKYLAR
(whispers)
I wish.

GABE
Can I play it for you?

Skylar shakes her head and closes her balcony doors. The doors don't close all the way.

Gabe looks confused.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

NOTE: NO SOUND means the audience doesn't hear playing of the guitar.

Skylar picks up her guitar and plays it. NO SOUND. She wanders her room playing.

She continues to play. Still NO SOUND.

Skylar throws the guitar onto her bed. She takes her sheet music and tosses it in the air.

GABE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I should do something.

She kneels on the ground crying into her hands.

Pebbles clink at the balcony door. The door swings open.

A pebble wrapped in a piece of paper lands on her lap.

She picks it up and unwraps the paper. It reads: You OK?

Skylar looks up.

Gabe is on his balcony playing guitar. NO SOUND.

EXT. BALCONY - SAME

Skylar steps out to her balcony. She holds up the pebble. Ready to throw it.

GABE (CONT'D)
Keep it!

Gabe plays the guitar.

GABE (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Gabe repeats the music.

Skylar shakes her head.

GABE
What's wrong?

SKYLAR
Nothing.

GABE
Is it cause we're strangers?
(strums guitar)
I'm Gabe.

Gabe continues to play Skylar's pop music.

SKYLAR
Skylar.

GABE
It's nice to meet you. Now, please,
what's wrong?

SKYLAR
I don't want to talk about it.

GABE
Okay...what if I tell you my
struggle?

Skylar nods in agreement.

GABE
I can't read music.

SKYLAR
I...I can't...play.

GABE
Bullshit. I've heard you play.

SKYLAR
You and I are different.

Skylar backs into her room. She closes the doors. She turns
the lock. THUD.

GABE (V.O.)
How are we different?

INT. UNIVERSITY - HALLWAY - DAY

Gabe walks down the hall and hears Skylar's song.

He stops in his tracks. Gabe walks up to the open door and
sees Skylar in the

MUSIC ROOM

Skylar stands at a PIANO next to a music teacher, MR. PORTER,
40's, dresses as if he's still in a Jazz Band. He knows
American Sign Language.

Mr. Porter's back is toward Gabe.

MR. PORTER
(signs and speaks)
Your piece works. Don't forget to
sign up.

Skylar sits at the piano as Mr. Porter leaves and walks pass
Gabe in the doorway. They nod to each other.

GABE (O.S.)
He's right you know.

Skylar doesn't react to Gabe's presence.

Gabe walks up to Skylar and taps her on the shoulder.

Skylar is startled. She turns to see Gabe standing close. She stands up from the piano.

SKYLAR
It's you.

GABE
It's me!

SKYLAR
You go here? Or did you follow me?

GABE
I go here, don't worry. Mr. P is right by the way. Your piece works.

SKYLAR
Thanks.

GABE
What do you need to sign up for?

SKYLAR
A performance that's half my grade. I can't do it though.

GABE
Why not? I've heard you play.

Skylar looks at Gabe in silence.

GABE
Please talk to me. I wanna know more about you. We are neighbours after all.

Skylar sighs.

SKYLAR
You don't quit, do you?

GABE
Nope, sorry. You intrigue me.

SKYLAR
I what?

Skylar's eyes shift from his eyes to his lips.

GABE
Intrigue. You intrigue me.

Skylar smiles.

INT. BEDROOM - A WEEK LATER

Skylar is defeated. Sitting on her bed. Sheet music spread across her comforter.

She picks up her phone. A TEXT from Gabe. It reads: I'm coming over.

Moments later Gabe enters her room. He sits on her bed.

Skylar's head is down. Gabe places a finger under her chin. She lifts her head, tears in her eyes.

Gabe brings Skylar in for a hug.

Releasing from the hug, Gabe looks at her concerned.

She opens her mouth to speak, but no words come out.

She grabs her notebook and writes: I'm deaf. She shows the notebook to Gabe.

Gabe shifts on the bed. He looks at his hands, moving his fingers. He gets off the bed and leaves.

Skylar sits on her bed and cries.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. GABE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gabe sleeps at a desk, his computer is open to a page titled: How to Learn ASL.

EXT. GABE'S BALCONY - DAY

Gabe sends a text on his phone. He looks over to Skylar's balcony. NO RESPONSE. Gabe sends another text.

We see Gabe's phone. Texts to Skylar.

TEXT ONE: Skylar, come out to the balcony. I have a surprise for you.

TEXT TWO: Skylar. Please.

Gabe looks over to Skylar's balcony doors. They open.

Skylar looks at Gabe, disappointed and hurt.

NOTE: Underlined dialogue is sign language and will be captioned.

GABE

I'm sorry. I was stupid. I've
been...

SKYLAR

Practicing?

She chuckles. Gabe rubs his head.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Skylar and Gabe sit on a blanket. She helps with his ASL.

Gabe messes up. They both laugh. He tries again.

INT. MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Gabe plays Skylar's final performance piece. He sits next to her with his guitar.

SKYLAR

Does it work?

Gabe nods. He places his guitar on a stand.

Skylar smiles and hugs Gabe. He hugs her with a smile.

END MONTAGE

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: One Week to Final Performance

The room is filled with humming, buzzing, and rustling.

NOTE: Anything spoken, not including voiceover, will be captioned and not vocally heard.

Gabe and Skylar sit in her room. He has his guitar on his lap as Skylar writes in her notebook.

GABE (V.O.)

Communicating has been tricky, but
we speak the same language of
music.

Gabe waves his hand in Skylar's face.

GABE (CONT'D)
What's the plan?

Skylar holds her finger up to say: "One moment."

Skylar flips a page of her notebook and writes. She shows it to Gabe, it reads: You go on stage for me.

GABE (CONT'D)
No

SKYLAR
You got this! I believe in you!

GABE (V.O.)
You... I...you.

Gabe looks at her confused.

Skylar writes in her notebook and shows Gabe. It reads: You can do it!

GABE (CONT'D)
No, I can't. It's your music, your grade. You'd have to go on stage with me.

Gabe points to Skylar and to himself.

SKYLAR
No.

GABE
Why not?

SKYLAR
(speaks and signs)
I need to hear the music to play it.

GABE
That shouldn't matter.You are a great guitar player.

Gabe passes his guitar to Skylar. She places her fingers on the strings. She strums a chord, stops, strums another chord, stops, strums the two chords together, stops.

Skylar passes back the guitar.

SKYLAR
I can't do this.

GABE
Sure you can. Try again.

SKYLAR
I said I can't.

GABE
You just...

SKYLAR
No Gabe.

GABE
Sky...

SKYLAR
Get Out!

Gabe takes his guitar. Before exiting Skylar's room, he signs: I'm sorry.

EXT. BALCONY - MORNING

Skylar lays in bed. She looks at photos of her and Gabe at the park. She opens the message app and clicks on Gabe's name. She types: Are you awake? I'm sorry about last night. I thought of an idea for my performance. I could use your help. SEND. Within minutes typing dots appear and then disappear.

Skylar gets out of bed. She puts on A FLUFFY ROBE and flings her balcony doors open.

She picks up pebbles and tosses them at Gabe's window.

Gabe opens his balcony doors, he yawns.

GABE
What?

SKYLAR
I'm sorry.

GABE
No, I'm sorry. I can be... pushy. I shouldn't have pushed you.

SKYLAR
Thanks. I forgive you.

Skylar pulls a crumpled up piece of paper out of her robe and throws it at Gabe.

GABE
What's this?

Skylar gestures for him to read it. He smooths it out.

GABE (V.O.)
We can start a band! I'll have to ask permission, but you'll play the guitar and I'll write. We'll also have to find an instrument that I can play AND feel the beat. Any ideas?

Gabe looks pass the piece of paper toward Skylar. She waits for an answer.

GABE (CONT'D)
Yes. As for the instrument, I have an idea.

INT. UNIVERSITY - MUSIC ROOM - DAY

Gabe and Skylar talk with Mr. Porter.

GABE (CONT'D)
Can you help us out?

MR. PORTER
Sure can. Follow me.

Mr. Porter leads Gabe and Skylar to a recording booth.

MR. PORTER (CONT'D)
Put your hand here.

Mr. Porter taps on the speaker. Skylar places her hand in the same spot.

MR. PORTER (CONT'D)
Tell me if you feel anything. OK?

SKYLAR
OK.

Mr. Porter goes to the studio. Music plays through the speaker in the booth.

GABE
Can you feel anything?

SKYLAR
No.

GABE
Turn it up.

Mr. Porter brings a pair of wireless headphones into the booth and hands them to Skylar.

MR. PORTER
Put these around your neck.

Skylar takes the headphones and places them around her neck. She places a hand back on the speaker.

Mr. Porter goes into the studio and plays the music again.

Skylar waves at Gabe in excitement.

SKYLAR
I can...

Skylar presses the headphones against her throat.

SKYLAR
What instrument can I play though?

GABE
That's the best part.

INT. MUSIC HALL - NIGHT

TITLE: Final Performance

Gabe and Skylar are backstage. Skylar wears a denim skirt and a silk top. Gabe wears dress pants and a dress shirt.

SKYLAR
I can't do this.

GABE
Yes, you can. We've practiced.
You're gonna kill it!

Skylar takes a deep breath.

M.C. (O.S.)
Here to play an original
composition is Skylar and Gabe!

GABE
That's us. You ready?

Skylar hesitates. Beat. She takes a deep breath and nods her head. The two walk onto the stage.

Skylar stands in front of a DJ TURNTABLE AND A LAPTOP next to A SPEAKER. She places the headphones around her neck and her left hand on the speaker.

Gabe hooks up his GUITAR to AN AMP.

Gabe nods counting Skylar in.

Skylar hits a key on the laptop and spins the opening of their song. The same song she worked on weeks ago.

Gabe plays his guitar.

They play until the end of the song.

INT. MUSIC HALL - BACKSTAGE - LATER

O.S. the audience claps.

Skylar and Gabe rush off stage.

GABE

Amazing!

SKYLAR

It felt amazing.

GABE

(speaks while signing)

I'm so proud of you!

SKYLAR

Thank you, for helping me achieve this.

Skylar hugs Gabe.

Gabe sinks into the hug wrapping his arms around her tight.

Skylar looks into his eyes. She kisses him.

SKYLAR

Sorry.

Gabe smiles and brings her in for another hug.

Releasing from the hug, arms still around each other, they stare into each others eyes.

GABE (V.O.)

She's my music next door.

FADE OUT.