

Empty and Full
by Justin Street

Level II Monologue (Age 11 - 14)

Approximate Length: 3:36

Gender Neutral

CHARACTER: Bobby (could be male or female). Reformed pickpocket. Bright and energetic, but a little rough around the edges.

BOBBY enters energetically.

BOBBY

Hey! Welcome to Ye ol' music shoppy. I know the "e" at the end is supposed to be silent, but why would you come to a store full of instruments when you wanted silent, you know what I mean?

Feel free to pick up anything you want. 'Specially if it's expensive, cause you might break it and then - you know - you gotta buy it. I mean, it's only fair.

"sees something"

Hey, did you break that piano?

laughs

I'm just messing with ya. It's here for repairs. Bill, the owner, is a wizard with old instruments. I'm getting pretty good too, but you know, I got a ways to go before I'm at his level. But I'm getting there. I'm getting there.

But seriously, you have any questions, you let me know.

Oh, and really, if you break something you really will have to pay for it, though. Which means...

mimes pulling out a wallet and holds it out

you're going to need this. Yea, it's your wallet.

reacts as though it's been taken away violently

Whoa, whoa - sorry. It was just a joke. I wasn't going to keep it. It's just a little something I do to break the ice. Bill says it's off-putting. Maybe he has a point.

Sorry. Listen, I really wasn't gonna keep it. It's like a little party trick. It's also one of the only things I know how to do. But I really don't do it anymore.

That's how I wound up here, actually. I used to love working crowds, you see, and I started noticing this new kind of crowd happening every now and then, and they were perfect! They brought all kinds of noisemakers with them. If

there's one thing that's helpful if when you're gonna fleece a crowd, it's distractions. Boy, these guys had it all!

Horns - a whole crew of horns! And singing and yelling and theatrics - it was perfect!

But just when I thought I was getting away scott-free, that's when I got caught.

Not by a cop. By a drum. I know, I know. It was weird. But I caught this big bass drum out of the corner of my eye, and I know it sounds crazy, but I felt like I wanted... no, I felt like I've never wanted anything so much in my life. I started walking towards it, and I was trying to figure out how in the world I was going to get this shiny bass drum unnoticed. That's when I heard what the lady standing over it was saying.

She started talking about how all of us are empty, and that we need to be filled. Like that bass drum was empty, but when it was used to play music, then it was filled with vibrations and people could hear it from far away.

And I knew I wanted to be filled like what she was saying - then just like that, she asked if there was anyone who wanted to be filled like what she was saying - and I just broke down and started running toward that drum.

Which was when I tripped over a cobblestone and fell headfirst right through that drum, and everything that I'd just stolen from the people in the crowd came spilling out of my pockets. Wallets, watches, bracelets, all of it. But I didn't get in trouble. The lady kept the people from grabbing me, and then helped me give all the stuff back. And when I told her how sorry I was about the drum, she introduced me to Bill.

He gave me a job here at the shop, and taught me how to fix instruments - starting with that drum. He pays me good, so I don't have to steal any more, and I feel like I have purpose, you know?

And I don't feel empty anymore. I feel... full.

So anyways - tell me if you see something you like.

Exits.