

THE FEELING OF MUSIC

FADE IN:

INT. A TEENAGE BEDROOM - OBVIOUSLY DAYTIME, BUT WITH CURTAINS DRAWN

The room is dark and gloomy, not the normal atmosphere expected of a teenage bedroom. There is a piano in the left corner of the room.

ANGLE: On bed

MAYU, Japanese-American female, 17, deaf, studies piano, with dreams of being accepted to Julliard, sits staring solemnly out of her bedroom window (closed).

FLASHBACK TO:

INT/EXT MAYU'S CAR [DRIVING] - DAY

12 MONTHS AGO

Mayu sits in the driver's seat. She looks unfazed.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Mayu hasn't moved.

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

EXT. TRUCK DRIVES TOWARDS MAYU'S CAR

Neither person shows any indication of noticing the other.

SMASH CUT TO:

Mayu reaches for the radio and looks down.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Mayu has not moved.

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

THERE IS A HONK

Mayu looks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMASH CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN. LOUD SCREECHING OF TIRES ON ROAD/SIRENS

BACK TO PRESENT:

Mayu looks up at her mother who has materialized in front of her.

SHIORI, Mayu's mother, 46, married to FRANCIS (Mayu's father), worried and anxious about her daughter.

SHIORI

(in American Sign Language; subtitles on screen)

Are you all right?

MAYU

(in American Sign Language; subtitles on screen)

Just memories.

SHIORI

(in American Sign Language; subtitles on screen)

Dinner's ready. Come downstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

The table is set and there are Japanese Potstickers (Gyoza) on the table. Francis, Shiori and Mayu are eating in silence.

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The windows are drawn so you cannot tell the time of day. There is a continuous beeping coming from the machinery. Mayu lays on the hospital bed asleep.

FADE TO:

INT. ROOM - DAY

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mayu sits in a chair hooked up to a machine. A doctor administers a hearing test. Mayu doesn't respond quickly, or sometimes, at all.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Mayu is sitting on the edge of the bed, holding a piece of paper.

ANGLE: Down at paper

It reads: "I'm very sorry Mayu. You have a condition known as sensorineural hearing loss. It came about due to the head trauma you suffered during the crash. I'm afraid, in your specific case, it is irreversible. "

BACK TO PRESENT:

INT. MAYU'S ROOM - DAY

Mayu sits at her piano. There is a composition book open on it. She presses a key, then another. We do not hear any music but there is a resounding sound of vibrations.

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

INT. STUDIO ROOM - EARLY MORNING

10 MONTHS AGO

Mayu sits with a man at an old piano.

MR. DAVID, A man about 60 years of age, worn and hard along the edges. He has taught over 20 great pianists in his lifetime, including Mayu.

He looks flustered and upset. Mayu is hunched over on the bench with her head in her hands.

The old man gets up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. PIANO TEACHER'S HOME - SAME TIME

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Through a wide window, we see Mr. David speaking to Shiori and Francis. He shakes his head and looks back at a room we cannot see, presumably where Mayu is.

BACK TO PRESENT:

Mayu presses a few more keys. We hear the vibrations.

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

7 MONTHS AGO

There is stuff everywhere, and colorful art on the walls. The whole room generates energy and emotion. It belongs to MARIA, an overly eccentric, deaf music teacher, who walks around with paint on her face and earrings that look like they could blind you.

Mayu enters the room and is met with flying fabric and the smell of traditional Indian food.

ANGLE: Kitchen

We see Maria bustle out into the room, hands flying rapidly as she signs to Mayu.

MARIA

(in American Sign Language; subtitles on screen)

Hello, I'm Maria. Mayu, correct?

Mayu looks startled at the rapid sign language.

She pulls out a pad of paper and writes something on it. When she turns it around we see she has written: "I am not quite that fluent in ASL yet. I am learning."

Maria takes the paper and replies: "That's fine. I'll help you with that too. My name is Maria. Shall we get started?"

BACK TO PRESENT:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INT. MARIA'S HOME - DAY

Mayu sits next to Maria on her couch.

MARIA

(in American Sign Language; subtitles on screen)

Don't worry. You'll be fine. You did great. Julliard would be stupid
not to accept you.

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

INT. MARIA'S HOME - DAY

2 MONTHS AGO

Mayu and Maria are sitting at Maria's piano. Mayu breaths deep and
begins to play.

BACK TO PRESENT:

MUSIC CUE: Bach Piano Sonatas Op 17 N 1 (ABBREVIATED)

Mayu plays the same music in present time.

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

INT. MUSIC HALL - DAY

1 MONTH AGO

Mayu sits playing the same piece before a panel of judges.

BACK TO PRESENT:

EXT. MAYU'S HOUSE - DAY

Mayu is walking down her driveway to her mail box. Upon reaching it, she
flips through the letters stopping.

ANGLE: ON MAYU'S FACE, LOOKING DOWN AT THE LETTER

She opens the letter and takes a deep breath.

FADE OUT.

THE END