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Music and Disability Convocation Concert Lyrics, April 15, 2023

Illinois State University School of Music

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Music and Disability Convocation Concert

August 1999

Carolinas Hospitalization
August 6, 1999
Trauma Number: 8100001000
seven year old female
restrained passenger in a rollover motor vehicle
accident
patient brought in by ambulance and no loss of
consciousness
patient hemodynamically stable en route
initial vital signs blood pressure 140/82, pulse 117,
respiration 20
airway clear
immobilization
some breathing
circulation
asensation
of the skin
no pulses
no function
no flexor
no extensor
no movement
i am a girl
in an accident
i am a girl
with an arm
hanging by skin
i lay down
paint the left
drape it as a sterile field
i lay down
wound the left
skin the flap of what remains
in the wound
paint and glass
in the wound
flesh and bone
in the wound
held by staples
in my wound
not controlled
in my wound
airway clear
take my hand
airway clear

Weakness

What is weakness for you?
Weakness, gosh that's so loaded. [laughs]
Yeah, it's not a word I think about that much and
I wonder why.
Ego.
I think weakness is one of those words
that I have trouble defining
insofar as it is often defined for me
and actually most people find
weakness is defined for them,
by somebody outside, and it ends up
becoming internalized.
Some disabled people are weak some of the time,
but so is everybody else.
Feels connected to fragility
which I think of as kind of like
the default way of being and existing in the world.
I feel a lot of like weakness and fragility in my
body
and that feels really connected to
how I move through the world
and I interact with people
who don't have that experience with their body
but I often feel like that is
kind of a myth that they're living in.
Internalizing what other people think I'm able to
do.
I don't know how many times
a day, a week, a month, a year
people say like
"you're such an inspiration for doing..."
and I'm like
I'm such an inspiration for being on the sidewalk.
Like that's, how about I'm an inspiration
because I persevered through
and educational track and went on to do x, y, and
z
and build this professional career
like why isn't that inspirational?
Giving up before I try something.
I guess weakness is my superpower.
I do think that in those
scary, ugly, lonely moments of
you know just, being in total weakness
you know, you really understand yourself
and I think that's been a source of power as well.
Everybody has weaknesses,
and, most of us don't like to admit to them.
When I first started losing my eyesight,
obviously my vision impairment

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was a massive weakness, and
you know that can certainly consume you
with regard to every aspect of your life
whether it's, you know
preventing you from doing things professionally,
whether it's
preventing you from doing things socially,
whether it's
preventing you from doing things personally.
And if you allow that to basically
consume your entire life
then you end up in that dark hole or pit
and that's where, you know
a lot of us have been there,
and I'll admit that I certainly have been in that
dark, dark hole a few times myself during my
journey.

Crip

what you were before
didn't know what I had
you were just like an angel
skin with no scars
you were just like a feather
new in this world
I was I was special
you are so special
but I'm a crip
I'm a hero
inspiration standing here
I don't belong here
but I'm a crip
I'm an idol
shining model standing here
I don't belong here
I don't care if but hurts
you came to me so fast
suddenly I was
a girl with scars
you were a treasure
so new in this world
you became so special
am I that special
but I'm a crip
I'm a hero
inspiration standing here
I don't belong here
oh
a crip
crip
crip
crip
crip
whatever makes you happy
whatever you say
you're so very special
I am so special
but I'm a crip
I'm your weirdo
inspiration once was here
came out of nowhere
I don't belong here