

Gabriel Perry

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MakeMusic, Inc.

7007 Winchester Circle, #140
Boulder, CO 80301
Attn: Fred Flowerday, General Manager

Dear Mr. Flowerday,

I have been working as a professional software developer since 2003, and am *extremely interested* in working as a *Frontend Software Engineer* for MakeMusic. I first learned about MakeMusic from a colleague about a year ago and am delighted that a frontend development position has opened up recently in the Boulder office.

Fred, we have something in common. We both attended the Berklee College of Music in the early 90's. I started in January 1991, and studied there for 3 contiguous semesters as a guitar major. Although I didn't earn a degree in music, the time I spent studying at Berklee had a tremendously positive influence on my musical development. I have maintained a serious guitar practice for the past 30 years, played in bands, and have recorded many original compositions over the years, some of which can be found at: <https://soundcloud.com/gabrielperry>.

I also wrote an "eBook" on music theory designed for guitar players which can be found at: <http://www.flupe.com/lessons/guitar-lessons.htm> and have taught guitar privately over the past two decades. I love teaching and sharing with others.

After Berklee, I moved to Boulder and earned a **B.A. in Psychology** from Naropa University, and continued my studies by earning a **B.S. in Computer Science** from The University of Colorado at Boulder.

My father used to say that programmers and musicians have a lot in common. When I was younger, I'm not sure I completely appreciated his point of view, (because I wanted to rock!) but as my career has progressed, I see that he had a pretty good point. He used to tell me that IBM, a company he worked for for 14 years, loved hiring music majors for development positions because they "just have a mind for it". So, there must be something to it. After perusing Linked-In, I see that many of the technical folks working at MakeMusic got their start in music too and I find this very exciting.

I've worked for many companies over the years, but the best companies I worked for were software companies. Why were they the best? Because those companies love software and love building software - they know how to do it exceptionally well. In short, those companies care and understand and know their users.

I worked as a frontend JavaScript developer for Trimble SketchUp for about 4 years and helped them rebuild their 3D Warehouse website, <https://3dwarehouse.sketchup.com>, after Trimble had acquired SketchUp from Google in 2012. SketchUp, as you may know, is used worldwide and is a premier 3D drawing desktop application. 3D Warehouse is the companion website for SketchUp and enables users to upload and share the models and drawings they've made using the SketchUp app.

I was one of the main frontend developers for 3D Warehouse and worked on a small team of about 5 engineers. Google was SketchUp's parent company for many years which means that many of the engineering practices that Google employed, SketchUp practiced as well. Things like: performing internal code reviews, using (and adhering to) a coding style-guide, focusing on test-driven development. Most code could not be checked into version control unless it was backed by a solid suite of unit tests, for instance.

SketchUp also had a very talented and dedicated group of Quality Assurance and Test engineers. We built tools and systems that supported continuous integration, and we gave our engineers time and iterations to pay off technical debt if it had been accrued. Software quality, maintainability and readability was key. In short, SketchUp paid attention to all of the little details needed to make a great software product that people *love to use* and a product software developers loved building and maintaining.

At SketchUp I mostly coded in JavaScript using a JavaScript framework called *Google Closure* (<https://developers.google.com/closure/library/>). I think my SketchUp experience and experience as a frontend developer would be a valuable asset to the frontend team at MakeMusic, and I think the *Frontend Software Engineering* position aligns well with my career goals – to move deeper into the frontend space.

In total I have around 15 years of professional software development experience and have focused mostly on web technologies. Before getting into JavaScript, I spent most of my professional coding life as a Java engineer. More recently I completed a 6 month contract position for Staples (Corporate) building out a middleware layer for their staples.com domain using TypeScript (Node.js), Express, and the Jasmine testing framework.

I enjoy both frontend and backend type of development, but really like working in the frontend space. I also enjoy maintenance development. I thrive in creative and collaborative environments where communication is healthy, people like each other, egos are in check and the best ideas win. For me, it's all about teamwork and doing my best while helping others be the very best they can be while delivering high quality and maintainable software solutions.

I can't stress enough how excited I am by this opportunity with MakeMusic. Usually, music and software have been separate things in my life, but it would be a *dream job* to be able to bring these two disciplines together in some capacity. I would be a very dedicated and motivated employee.

I hope you will consider my application for employment. I would love to start a conversation with you. Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions. An online version of my resume can be found here for your convenience: <http://www.flupe.com/resume/resume.html>

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Perry

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