REMEMBERING

CHRISTINA GRIMMIE

ARTIST | ANGEL

I don’t really know what to say or how to feel in this moment. A million different emotions are running through my mind and I can’t believe tragedies like this happen so easily. On June 11, 2016 we lost a dear friend, one of God’s brightest stars, Christina Grimmie. I have known Christina for many years, as you can imagine I don’t really know how to deal with the thought of all of this. I don’t want to discuss what happened, I don’t even want to think of what happened. I just want to remember her for the incredible gift that she was.

For years, I remember watching Christina on YouTube. Her covers were out of this world and original on many levels. Her voice captivated each listener and left an impression that this is what she was born to do. I’m sure I can speak on behalf of everyone that knew Christina and express how special she was. Her presence was strong. I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to know this beautiful soul.

In 2011, I interviewed Christina for the first time; a week prior to winning her first American Music Award. I remember playing “First Thing to Mind”; which consisted me naming a subject or a person while she responded with the first thing that came to her mind. We covered everything from Selena Gomez to social media. “Alright this is the last one, Zack Tremblay”. I decided to throw myself in the game just to see what her response would be. She replied “The most awesome interview dude in the world, and I quote”. At that point I was just starting off in the industry, but those words pushed me to work that much harder. It’s important to keep in mind that simple and silly things can make the biggest impact on someones life.

Shortly following our first interview, Christina was named YouTube sensation of the Year in a online, fan voted award segment on my YouTube channel. I remember receiving the acceptance speech and having a constant smile on my face after hearing what she had to say.

“WOW, OKAY. Where do I begin for this? I just really, really want to thank the amazing Zack Tremblay for even considering me to be YouTube sensation of the year, that’s insane, holy cow; cause there are so many amazing YouTuber’s out there. I’m really proud of all of them, but for you to pick me is amazing”

For as long as I can remember, Christina was always there. I was inspired in many ways by the drive she had in her career. After years of support, Christina and I met for the first time in Boston, MA on March 12, 2016. I took the train in to Boston, which happened to be Christina’s 22nd birthday. I surprised her with custom-made cupcakes inspired by her last release, ‘Side A’.

“It’s good to put a face to the voice after all these years”. -Christina

That day brought me an extended amount of happiness that cannot be described. Everything came full circle. After all these years, Christina still remained an important part of my life and she will continue to be an important part of my life. Her legacy will live on as we listen to her voice, watch her videos and reflect on everything she gave this world. She was taken from us too soon and for that I have no words. But I do know that God has a plan.

Mark, I can't put in to words how brave your actions were in this horrible tragedy. You stepped up when it mattered most and kept the rest of the venue safe. I strongly believe that you will carry your sisters legacy on for years to come. The bond you two had was special and can not be replaced. Christina is now gracing us from above continuing to shine a light in our lives.

I love you Christina, thank you for being such a crucial part of my life and career.

Zack Tremblay