

College Town

By Scott O'Connell

Posted Oct 7, 2020 at 4:27 PM | Updated Oct 7, 2020 at 4:27 PM

Anti-virus song

A Quinsigamond Community College student used a little inspiration from Billy Joel to create a COVID-19 rallying song for the start of the new academic year.

Mason Wheaton, a first-generation college student who plans to graduate with an associate degree in music next spring, self-wrote and self-recorded “We Can Fight the Virus,” which is sung to the tune of “We Didn’t Start the Fire.”

“Mason is an example of the incredible talent that we see in so many of our students,” said Quinsigamond’s president, Luis Pedraja. “This was a fun and effective way to demonstrate what we can and should be doing to fight the virus. Mason’s song will resonate with many in the days and weeks to come.

Music Professor José Castillo thought of Wheaton when the college asked him to find a student to perform a parody motivational song.

“My responsibility was to choose the perfect performer for the song. Someone who would not only have a beautiful voice and musical talent, but also someone who would make the lyrics come to life and add a special charisma to the overall project,” he said. “I have worked with Mason for the past year ... (she has) always been eager to take on new challenges in and out of the classroom, which is an excellent quality to have.”

Wheaton intends to eventually transfer to UMass Amherst on her way to becoming a vocal teacher, but said she is grateful to have started her higher education at Quinsigamond.

“There is no shame in going to a community college. It’s the smarter way to go to school, especially if you don’t have a lot of money, and then you can easily transfer to a four-year school,” she said. “I want to help students become interested in being a part of the college community and follow their dreams.”

Her song can be found at www.QCC.edu/fight-the-virus.