



Denver & the Mile High Orchestra – *THE SUMMARY*

- Denver started playing trumpet in 6th grade middle school band
- He moved to Nashville to attend Belmont University. Here he continued to work on his writing and arranging skills, discovering big band music was his passion.
- Calling his musician friends from school to play with him, Denver started performing his compositions at small local shows. They soon named the band Denver & the Mile High Orchestra (DMHO), a play on words using Denver's name.
- DMHO won the opportunity to open for a Lee Ann Womack concert. The day after the show, two record labels called Denver's college dorm room.
- After several months of negotiating a record deal, the label went bankrupt, shattering the band's dream of success.
- Denver had to take a string of temporary jobs, and lived in a roach infested house with no heat, trying to pay back his legal bills from negotiating the record deal that never happened.
- Deciding to press on, the band began rehearsing weekly. As Denver could afford it, DMHO began going into the recording studio. One and a half years later, they had thirteen songs recorded, and named it the "Act the Scat" album.
- "Act the Scat" caught the attention of a small independent record label who began selling it into distribution. Approximately 10,000 copies were sold, but the distribution company went bankrupt with all of the money. Again, the band was left with nothing, and in order to survive, DMHO had to leave that record label.
- The band again set out on their own, performing shows all around the country. DMHO caught the attention of Reid Ribble, a roofing contractor in Wisconsin. He and his family loaned the band the money to record another CD to sell and take to other music industry professionals.
- Once again, DMHO was shown little to no interest in what they were doing, so Reid Ribble and his family decided to start a record label to support this band.
- After the band started gaining some success through radio and television, they learned they needed more help with the record label, booking, publishing. Again going to the music industry, with no interest, certain band members continuing to see the vision, took on these roles. Because of DMHO a record label, booking and management company and publishing company have been founded.
- Because of DMHO's perseverance this band has traveled all over the world performing at the Olympic games, internationally televised shows, festivals and churches. Their now six albums can be found in retail stores around the world.

Denver & the Mile High Orchestra's story is an inspiration because it's all about a group of very ordinary guys getting to do extraordinary things. This band is proof that life can have unique purpose beyond what is considered commercially acceptable.

Our group of band geeks was told we had no chance of any commercial success. Though DMHO was not given a platform, we worked hard to create one for ourselves. We believed that what we have to share is genuine, important, and inspirational. It was our faith, our passion, and our "never-say-die" attitude that kept our dream alive.



No big record label came along and gave DMHO a million-dollar deal, a loaded tour bus, and unlimited marketing support. We've slept on the side of the road in vans with flat tires. Our bus once caught fire, leaving us stranded at 6:00 on a snowy morning in the Rocky Mountains. Many "industry experts" still look at our ability to do what we do in disbelief, and we attribute this success to our faith, values, and commitment to persevere no matter what.

DMHO's music is inspiring to the entire family. It's not unusual to have three generations of the same family come to our concerts, and keep coming back for more. Moms and dads are listening to the big band sounds their parents loved. People tell us that listening to DMHO's music gives comfort and joy after family members have passed away. Teenage children love our loud sound and high energy. And small children are captivated with the animated, joyful sound our music brings to their imaginative ears. DMHO is a rare, unifying and uplifting entertainment experience.

DMHO inspires communities as we unite them in a passion for music. Annually, one million band kids graduate high school. Through "DMHO-U" the band helps inspire those kids, as well as musicians of all ages and musical styles to pursue their dreams.



DMHO inspires through a contagious spirit of caring about the individual, not just the crowd. After every show - sometimes for hours - our band members remain on the stage to talk with people. We give evidence of who we are as we make the most of every opportunity to encourage and inspire, not just through our music, but just by interacting with people all over the world.

DMHO has a passion to support those who inspire others by making their musical arrangements available for sale. We hope to empower other big bands around the world to inspire and encourage through high-quality, uplifting music.

DMHO is inspiring because band geeks can be cool! We don't look like rock stars. We don't act like rock stars. We come with a mission, we come to work hard, and to do all we do with excellence.

