

Chamberlin, McCullough, Pederson turn the music up

Seniors set career goals on singing, songwriting and vocal performance

By Payton Romans
Cassidy Chamberlin

Students at Perry are often warned by teachers and parents to get a good night of sleep to feel rested for their 7:05 school start time. But for senior musician **Cassidy Chamberlin**, night time is when she's at her best.

Staying up late and being more acquainted with the moon than the sun has become a part of the musician's lifestyle. So much so in fact, that she recently was inked with a crescent moon on her hand.

"It serves as a reminder of when I'm most productive. And when everyone else is asleep, a lot of times the moon is your only company when writing songs," says Chamberlin.

The singer's music has a soothing and calm feel, providing smooth harmonies and delicate beats. These can be heard in her album, *12:09 AM*, available on Spotify and iTunes. This record includes five songs that Chamberlin wrote, produced and recorded on her own. To do this, the singer used a modern recording technique.

Her use of Logic Pro X, an audio editing system, allowed her to produce a sound to her liking, including the ability to layer her voice to produce an echo effect, along with changing the bass speed and volume. All of these special effects helped create her signature sound.

The senior's music has allowed her to present a more confident self, showing her own personality through her sound.

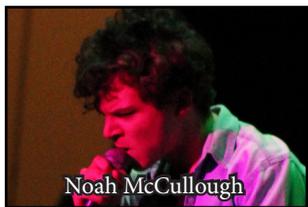
"I've really seen Cassidy grow as a person through the use of her music," says senior **Olivia Castaneda**, who has watched her best friend's music grow since 7th grade.

During the school day, Chamberlin spends her time in the

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top level choir Then & Now, and has participated in FEST for two years. After high school however, she plans on moving to California with her older brother to explore the musical opportunities in the golden state.

"It's always so sunny there, and the people, culture, everything about it is what I want to represent myself, so it's really a perfect fit," Chamberlin says.



Noah McCullough

Noah McCullough

With his heart beating loudly in his chest, the lights of the Coal Yard Coffee shop shining in his eyes, and a flowing audience of family, friends and strangers simply enjoying their coffee in front of him, senior **Noah McCullough** gears up to perform, which is nothing new for the singer.

McCullough has been writing music for 11 years, and a number of experiences have shaped his career for the in front of him. He has an EP (extended plays) available on Spotify and iTunes, "Empty Rooms."

McCullough's stage name, Anson Reede, originates from a sixth grade free-write in his English class. He remembers writing about a made-up character who lived an envious life, one who McCullough took inspiration from in his new persona, Anson.

One of the singer's favorite moments was his guest appearance on WZPL's Sunny Morning Show, a radio talk show that often brings in local Indiana Hoosier musicians.

The senior performed an original song, "Promises," and was surprised when he heard senior **Jessika Kidwell's** voice call into the station, giving him more time to sing.

"The station was having a contest where the musician would sing for a minute or two, and if

Top:
Album cover for Noah McCullough's "Empty Rooms".
Bottom:
Album cover for Cassidy Chamberlain's "12:09 AM".



When Senior Dean Pederson takes a moment in the spotlight, glitter and facepaint follow suit. Pederson looks down at his hands fitted with a unique fishnet gauntlet, strumming his guitar with an extra OOMPF. He calls his band at Rock for the Earth "Seraph Angel of the Apocalypse". They played several classic rock songs starting with Guns and Roses' "Welcome to the Jungle" and "Sweet Child of Mine." Afterward they performed "Don't Fear the Reaper" by Blue Oyster Cult and finished with "Dream On" by Aerosmith (Photo by Adam Crozier).

someone calls in to the radio station saying they like what they heard, the singer would get to sing longer," explains McCullough.

Little did he know, while he was performing on the radio, every member of Then & Now was crowded around a radio in the choir room, cheering and listening in-



tently for their fellow performer to begin. Every student had his or her phone out with the radio station's number already dialed, waiting impatiently for a chance to support a dear friend.

After high school, McCullough will be one of only five students at IUPUI majoring in the university's brand new music engineering degree. He is excited to see where this new experience will take him, and hopes to someday sing with his musical inspiration, Lorde, a singer/songwriter sensation from New Zealand known for pop and indie pop. He wants to write for Lorde too.

Dean Pederson, Kelsey Kurnick

Dancing along McCullough in Then & Now is senior **Dean Pederson** — known around Perry for his outlandish and high energy performing on stage — sporting black slacks and sparkling gold suspenders.

Senior **Kelsey Kurnick** and Pederson are paired this year as Then & Now dance partners. Dancing with him has given Kurnick insights on his influence over the entire choir department.

"He has so much energy and it brings out a fun energy in me that I normally don't have. Sometimes it may seem over the top but that's what it takes to be on stage," Kurnick says. "You have to be a little over the top sometimes to tell the story correctly and make the performance interesting."

That overflow of energy also makes Pederson's creation of music unique. His original lyrics take on a psychological level that comes from

"He has so much energy and it brings out a fun energy"
Kelsey Kurnick

the heart. He describes music as his middle man, the vehicle that carries the artistic thoughts swirling in his head to a larger audience. His conversational sound penetrates all ten songs on his original album, "New Roots."

Pederson is rarely without his five-pound guitar on his back, complete with attached embellishments including a harmonica, a loop pedal, a mini amplifier, a dismantled, garage-sale-find keyboard and a pair of denim jeans on the flip side of the guitar. It also sports an array of glued-on bottle caps, making a colorful mosaic on the front.

"I've been collecting them — and every single one of them — has a story of a memorable point in my life," Pederson says.

After high school, he plans on taking a gap year before college. For the first half, he plans on working at his father's fabrication shop where he'll be making industrial materials.

"There's a lot of options. Wherever I can work to save up the most amount of money is the place for me," Pederson says. That's because for the second half of the year, he's embarking on a performance tour wherever he can find work.

"Travel is the ultimate goal. I want to get as far as I can, and if that means two states over, across the country, or even just to my backyard, that's the dream."

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more
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12:09 AM



CASSIDY CHAMBERLIN

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