

THE MARIAN

BEAT

Music to My Ears

Behind the Scenes of Music Production

Kaylee Asche

It is the evening of Jan. 22, 2011. The Quest Center is packed with fans of all ages waiting for their favorite musical group to arrive on stage. As the minutes tick by, the impatience and energy of the crowd grows more intense. It is now a few minutes after 8, and the lights begin to dim. The moment everyone has been waiting for has finally arrived as the country band Rascal Flatts takes to the stage greeting the audience with the opening chords of their newest song. Their voices blast from the huge speakers and even fans way up in the nosebleed sections can hear them loud and clear. The advancement in sound technology over the years has made concerts like this possible.

Improved sound technology has altogether changed the music industry. According to physics teacher Mr. Bruce Esser, "Nowadays, we are able to capture everything, and the ability to do so is so much nicer."



Sarah Geske, freshman

Sarah's Stress Playlist
 The Climb
 Miley Cyrus
 Unwritten
 Natasha Bedingfield
 Who Am I
 Casting Crowns
 Come on Get Higher
 Matt Nathanson

Music production is much more advanced than it was even 10 years ago. "Back in the day, you had to record and make up to 11 different tapes of each individual part of a song before you could mix it all into a master tape," Esser said. "Today, you can do it all in software."

Music distribution has also changed. From tape players to CDs and from CDs to iPods, music is now more easily accessible. "iTunes is the largest distributor of music in the world, since more music is being downloaded and purchased than ever before," Esser said. However, now that more people are going online to buy music, stores and record companies are feeling the impact. "Major record companies are dying; the only thing they offer now is national presence," Esser said. "Only approximately 50 percent of CDs are sold anymore, and what they do with the ones they don't sell is stick them in a warehouse for a year and then destroy them."

In fact, the musicians themselves have also changed. As Esser explained, "They feel like they have to go past the boundary if they want to be popular. I have

difficulty accepting that those artists will continue to outsmart the system."

The impact of these changes within the music industry has been noticeable not only to the artists and producers but also to listeners and buyers. One recent incident concerning Apple shows just how much is expected of the music industry today.

Apple announced that Tuesday, Nov. 16 was to be "a day you'll never forget." They had a huge surprise in store, which became public that morning. But, for many, it turned out to be a major letdown.

The big announcement? The Beatles are now available on iTunes. Sophomore Nan Long said, "I wasn't expecting it to be about the Beatles. I was expecting something bigger and better like a new application for the iPhone or an iPhone 4. It was a disappointment." Even though it didn't meet everyone's expectations this time, next time it could be a major advancement.

No matter what the future may hold, Esser believes that "music should always be a part of your life."



Tysha O'Neal, junior

Ty's Pump-up Playlist
 The World's Greatest
 R. Kelly
 We Are the World
 Artists for Haiti
 Where is the Love
 Black Eyed Peas

Liza Woltemath, sophomore

Liza's Happy Playlist
 New Soul
 Yael Naim
 Pump It
 Black Eyed Peas
 Fidelity
 Regina Spektor
 You Don't Know Me
 Ben Folds



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To see Roni's ex...
 with The Network,
org/netpaper, feat
 Pancakes" and "S
 acoustic cover of /

Roni Rocks Out

MollyMisek

Marian Musician Makes an Impact

Whether you'd like a helping of "Asian Pancakes," a side of "Superdad" or an acoustic cover of Colby O'Donis's "What You Got," freshman Roni Perez can provide.

Although Perez's style of pancakes isn't exactly edible, it does make for a superb listening experience. Armed with Sakura, her Taylor acoustic-electric guitar, she performs a mixture of her own songs and acoustic covers of popular tracks for her family, friends and anyone else who's willing to listen.

"Ooh, bada bing, I'd love to hear you sing; let's take off our shoes and see us wiggle our toes," Perez croons in her most popular song, "Asian Pancakes."

The lyrics, which she wrote herself, echo throughout the cove every Wednesday morning as students of every grade gather to hear Marian's newest musician show off her talent. Her friends shout out requests for Justin Bieber and Taio Cruz, knowing that within the first few seconds, she'll have already outdone the Biebster with her acoustic prowess.

Serving as resident guitarist of Worship Choir and a member of Ninth Grade Choir, Perez is known as a musician by most of her freshman class. However, she admits she can be hesitant to reveal her artistic side to people.

"I don't think [people] would know I was a musician if they'd never heard of me. They'd just think, 'Oh, she's kind of shy,' but then I'd be outgoing as soon as I knew them," Perez said.

Perez got her musical start at a young age, singing Barney songs with her brother as a

toddler and moving on to Celine Dion tracks when she was 6. As she grew up, she craved more musical involvement.

"When I was 8, my brother was doing violin, and I wanted to play an instrument so I chose the guitar," Perez said. "A year ago I started piano, and two years ago I started teaching myself ukulele."

Her interest in music runs in the family.

Her dad's mother is a music teacher, and her mom's father is also a musician, playing the piano and guitar.

"My dad also always pushes me to get my music out there," Perez said, explaining that her father took her to an audition when she was 11, where she sang for judges.

"They were amazed by it. That led me to start performing," she said.

And perform she does. Whether she's playing at a gig for Filipino relatives, guests of the NYE Legacy Health and Rehabilitation Center in Fremont where her dad works or even Cheeseburger in Paradise ("My guitar teacher had me come up and play for five or ten minutes one time"), Perez knows how to entertain.

Just like any other musician, she writes songs for special friends and family members, and sometimes for no reason at all.

"I usually write about life. You know,

stories. Or if I hear about a situation, I write about that," Perez said. She wrote her heartfelt song "Superdad" specifically for her father's recent birthday, and she is currently working on a piano track dedicated to her mother.

Most of her songs have an upbeat, laid-back quality, filled with creative lyrics and fast wordplay. With quick fingers and a voice that hits high notes with ease, she lets her music take on a quality reminiscent of artists like Jack Johnson, YouTube star Gabe Bondoc and Jason Mraz.

Which isn't bad news for Perez, who borders on obsession for Mraz: "I love him. He loves me too," she continually claimed with a smile. She also rocks out to the likes of Eminem, Lil Wayne, Nikki Minaj and Vivi Brown.

Perez owns a YouTube account, which features a combination of older work and newer songs. With the help of music teachers, she has recorded at various studios, including the Mixing Room in Omaha.

"Over the summer, I recorded six of my songs there. I had this little demo CD," Perez said, grinning. For now, though, she resorts to recording her music in her bedroom, using a microphone, her instruments and a program called Session, similar to Garageband.

Her single "Asian Pancakes" can now be found on iTunes, Rhapsody and Amazon, with

help from a website called cdbaby.com. An artist submits music to the site, and within a month his or her music becomes available online.

However, she believes live performances give her music the best publicity. "It's better live; that's what my friends say. I'd agree too, because I'm more into [the performance]."

Perez feels that Marian is a fostering environment for young musicians, citing Jazz Band and Worship Choir as programs that help give Marian musicians an outlet. Although she knows many girls who play instruments, she would like to see more people making music at Marian "so I can jam with them. We need some girl power up in here."

For Perez, music is not just an extracurricular or a hobby. According to her, "It's a way to express myself. I want to be different from people, unique, like the ugly duckling."

She hopes to make it big in the future, going on tours and performing her music for the masses.

"All in all, when I'm older, I hope that I've achieved my dream and can just relax with my beautiful children. I want a family of my own. My son named Kale and my daughter named Mulan."

Big dreams for a small girl? Perez would disagree.

As she raps in her fast-paced style, "Cold as a popsicle, hot as the sun; if you like me rare, well, I'm better well-done."

Well-done. Looks like Roni Perez will have no trouble achieving that status with her music.

“ I want to be different from people, unique, like the ugly duckling. ”

-Roni Perez, freshman



Exclusive live session go to omahamarian. During her songs "Asian Superdad" and her Akon's "Beautiful."