

Maxwell Ends Festival On A Good Note

By: Lauren Duché
Advertising Editor

As her fingers graced the keys, she felt the instant rush of adrenaline. For junior Anna Maxwell, playing the piano started as just a fun hobby but spiraled into something much more than that.

"I've always wanted to play the piano. In elementary school when our music teacher would let certain kids go up and play I always thought 'I want to be able to do that.' When I was 12 one of my friends gave me an old keyboard, and the rest is history," said the junior.

But getting started wasn't easy. Not knowing where to begin or who to contact, she took matters into her own hands.

"I was self-taught originally and I only had a keyboard not an actual piano, so for six months I struggled to learn the basics but soon enough I was able to get lessons," she said. Like anything, practice makes perfect. To get to where she is today, Maxwell had to practice.

"In the beginning I used to practice every day but now I practice three days a week for about an hour plus whatever lessons I take up during the week," she said. Lately, it hasn't been easy for Maxwell.

"This year has been really hard and I lost my motivation for it for a while. I'm slowly getting it back. It's very frustrating at times," she said.

Through difficult times, she's always had people there to support and encourage her along the way.

"My biggest supporter piano-wise has been my grandfather. My grandpa bought me my actual piano, and he always asks about how I'm doing. The only times I've ever seen him cry have been at my recitals. Even when I don't play well, he's still proud. He keeps me in check. When he asks if I'm still 'into piano' I'm ashamed when the first answer I think of is 'no' when I hit a rough patch. Or when I go into lessons and nothing has changed from the week before. He's encouraging and always tells me to push forward. I don't want to let him down," she said.

Last year, as a gift to her grandparents for their 50-year wedding anniversary, she decided to play them a song at her recital.

"Fifty years of marriage is something to be proud of and since they're my biggest supporters and they love watching me play, I decided to play one of their favorite love songs for them. They knew I was playing them a

start." They ultimately decided to delete the cover and start over, but the band broke up soon after.

Seguin constantly carries around a notebook with him because he never knows when inspiration will strike. Throughout his averagely depressing day, Seguin will write down little phrases that pop into his head. Although he is not too fond of Richmond, this town does inspire him. Even though he does not like this town, Seguin said, "Everything that has happened to me has influenced me."

One thing Seguin wants to get across is that the lyrics in this EP are not good. The lyrics are not meant to be funny, but they kind of are. The theme of the EP, besides the ocean, is that nothing makes sense. "Don't be hung up trying to

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MISS DANCE

"I enjoy dance so much because I am free to do whatever it is I'm feeling. I can interpret that emotion with my body."

Participating in eight different kinds of dance including hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, ballet, pointe, tap and modern, this high school student is bound to have a favorite.

Simmons said, "I thoroughly enjoy all types of dance, but if I had to choose a favorite, it would have to be lyrical or modern. I like those the best because they're really about telling a story and expressing your feelings."

For Miss Dance of Michigan, dance is an escape.

"Dance gives me the opportunity to forget about everything going on in every other aspect of life. I am free to move and forget and be myself," Simmons said.

Not only is dance an outlet for the teen, but a bond for her and her younger sister, Abigail.

"In a way, dance brings my family, specifically me and my sister, because we always support each other, even though we are never home," she said.

What does the future hold?

It has only just begun for the newly crowned Miss Dance of Michigan. Simmons has guest appearances at

dance competitions, scholarships, photoshoots and Miss Dance of America in her future.

"I get to do some photoshoots and now I will go to New Orleans [in July] for 10 days and I will have classes from 8 in the morning to 11 or 12 at night everyday with all the representatives from each state and that will be fun," said Simmons. "My dance teacher just told me to prepare myself."

With her mindset on pursuing a career in musical theatre dance, Simmons works harder and harder every day in her dance classes and is only looking forward to what new skills she will pick up on when she goes to New Orleans for Miss Dance of America.

She said, "Right now, I really love Oklahoma City University and they have the second best dance program in the country. This past summer I went there to tour their campus and work with their faculty for two weeks and I fell in love with the school."

Wherever her dancing shoes sweep her away to, Simmons will always be driven by her passion for the way her body can be molded to tell a story to her audience.

Simmons said, "Even if I don't end up dancing when I'm older, which I plan to, dance has still taught me important lessons like determination and hard work and I will always enjoy watching the arts."

HEY NOW, D.S. IS A ROCKSTAR

By: Brianna Maloney
Features Co-Editor

Imagine this: You're on vacation and you're relaxing on the beach.

The cool blue waves are softly brushing against the hot white sand. You can hear seagulls calling out to each other in the distance. The breeze is ever so soft, just strong enough to cool you down, but not strong enough to blow off your hat. Soon, you realize the sun is about to set, so you gather your things and head on inside.

You're now cold and wet. So you grab a towel and dry off. Once you're no longer leaving a trail of water wherever you go, you take off your swimsuit and put on some clothes. Now, you don't just put on any clothing, you put on your favorite pair of pajamas that were just taken out of the dryer. You're now warm and comfortable.

You know that feeling? That warm and comfortable feeling you have once you get home after having a relaxing day at the beach? That's the feeling Daniel Seguin hopes to evoke inside you while listening to his new EP.

As one can infer by the name, the Kahuna EP is inspired by the ocean. This love for the ocean and waves goes back to Seguin's childhood.

"The SpongeBob movie had a special feature option on the ocean and all the creatures that lived there. I was so fascinated with it," Seguin said. The beach and waves always seems to draw him in.

Although Seguin can play the gui-

tar, the ukulele, the bass, the drums, the piano, and he can sing, he still needs help when it comes to producing and recording his songs.

His two right hand men are Clayton Maksymuk and Richmond alumni Zach Thomas. Maksymuk plays some instruments in the songs and Thomas helps with the background vocals.

The Kahuna EP has a total of four songs on it. Two covers and two originals. The two covers are of the same song, just recorded with two different people in two different ways.

"The way we record is very DIY," Seguin said. Maksymuk records with a video game microphone and a keyboard that is hooked up to a computer, then the microphone is hung over a ceiling fan. With Thomas, they use a real microphone and they hook their guitar up to a computer.

This EP is not Seguin's beginning with Maksymuk or Thomas; he worked with both of them in the past. Recently, Maksymuk and Seguin were in a band together called C-Average. Although C-Average never released an album, they did release a cover of the song Stay Together For The Kids by Blink-182.

Unfortunately, the cover was taken off YouTube, but a few CDs were made and passed out to their friends. "It's so cool to think that there are real discs out there with my music on them," Seguin said. The cover was taken off YouTube because the two of them would go through phases of wanting a "fresh

song, but they didn't know it was going to be at the recital. I just wanted to do something special for them and this was the perfect opportunity," she said.

And it was. It was the perfect time to showcase what she had done for her grandparents, but recitals are also the perfect opportunity to showcase what she had begun working on for festival.

"Piano festival is similar to choir and band festival: we prepare two solo pieces that we have to play from memory in front of judges. I also do an additional event called "concerto," which is where I play a different piece with my teacher and we're on two different pianos," she said.

In past years, Maxwell has scored a 98, two 99's, and two 100's on her solos and concertos.

2017 will be her fourth year attending festival and she will be performing one solo and one concerto just has she's done before.

This year, Maxwell scored a 92 on her concerto and a 94 on her solo.

"I didn't do as well as I would've liked. The weeks leading up to festival were tough. I didn't really practice as much as I should've, so I know that I could've done better, nonetheless. I'm still," she said.

Although she scored lower than she thought she would going in, she still reached her overall goal of earning a superior which earns her yet another trophy.

Maxwell has one year left, and she plans on making it count.

"I've learned from my mistakes. I'll admit, procrastination got the best of me this year, but I have one year left. I plan on practicing more than I did this year so I can learn my songs faster so I'm ready in plenty of time. In the end, though, festival aside, my goal is to be at the highest level of piano I can before I graduate, which I am going to be. I want to be good in my own eyes. Despite what people say, I don't think I'm quite there yet. I'm not saying I'm bad or can't play because I know that I can. I'm just not where I want to be yet," she said.

After high school, Maxwell plans on continuing playing piano even after she graduates.

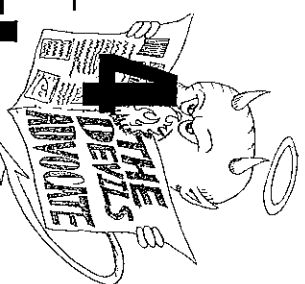
She said, "I don't think I will ever give up piano. I think whatever college I'll go to I'll look for opportunities for me to play for or with people. Even though I don't see it as a career, it has taught me control, patience and peace, and I know I never want to completely give it up. I love it."

say something," Seguin said, "it is all just sound!"

Overall, he is not where he hoped he would be musically. When Seguin was a kid, he saw himself in a better place. Although he hoped he would have been further along in his music career by now, he still has hope for the future.

Seguin said, "I want to be somebody's favorite band." His favorite musicians are Fildar and Waves. He wants to inspire kids the same way these artists inspired him.

The Kahuna EP does not have a set release date just yet, but Seguin plans to release the album on YouTube very soon.



Lights! Camera! Be Quiet, We're Hunting!

By: Ally Oddo
Staff Writer

What's your parent's career? An accountant? An engineer? What if they are a stay at home parent? Well, how would you feel about having one of your parent's be a T.V. star or owning their own T.V. show? For senior, Mkena Pollauf, having one of her parents on T.V. every week is just another day to day event.

Mkena's father is Don Pollauf who owns Bow Hunting Addiction the T.V. show and the business in Richmond, Michigan. Bow hunting Addiction is a show on how Don goes around the entire North America—including Canada—and just recently Africa with just a bow, hunting for wild game. The show is strictly bow hunting, there aren't any firearms on the show. "I chose bow because it's a challenge. You have to get almost two times closer to an animal than a firearm," said Don.

The show has been on the air for 10 years and counting on the Pursuit Channel! It began with Don, his late brother (Sean Pollauf), and their father Donald. "I feel like having the show family based since the beginning brings all of us closer together. We have definitely had rough patches, but being close with my family is what is important," said Mkena.

Family is a big aspect for the Pollaufs. It isn't just Mkena and her father. There is also Brittany who is 24 and Tyler who is 21. They too were a big apart in filming the show as well. Not to mention there several cousins and her aunt and late uncle. "Not all of my family was involved in the show. It was basically just my uncle's family up until three years ago when he started to focus on his business," said Mkena.

As they travel the country their life is full of new opportunities, from creating new business to meeting an Olympic gold medalist to even being able to go on trips that aren't open to many people. "Although, South Africa was an experience of a (lifetime). My favorite hunt would have to be get-

ting a number one—at the time—bull moose back in 2011 in New Brunswick, Canada," said Don.

As Don mentioned before, he went to South Africa for a hunt. He didn't just go once though, he actually went twice. While in South Africa he was able to hunt a wild boar. "Africa isn't much different other than there's not a lot of trees," said Don.

Mkena has also had the opportunity to get behind the bow and up in the tree stand. She has had the chance to hunt deer, but hasn't killed and mounted a deer yet. "When we were in Missouri I shot a deer, but we weren't able to track it down," said Mkena. That hasn't stopped this hunter, since then she has been to Illinois, Ohio, and back to Missouri. Mkena and her dad plan to keep traveling and even go to Louisiana and South Carolina.

Traveling all over the country isn't all fun and games, though. Unfortunately for Mkena she can't always go with her dad on trips because the trips are usually during the school year. For all three kids it was hard having their father away for long periods of time, but they soon realized he was doing it for them. Soon after, the kids joined in on the family business and began to have a passion just like their dad.

Since there is a lot of traveling between Don and Mkena, they have grown extremely close together. "I do consider my dad my role model. Even when he's away he somehow takes care of me," said Mkena.

With 1.2 million viewers a month on the show, many people in rural towns and at trade shows have recognized them both while on the road. Even in Don's famous Bow Hunting Addiction, came wrapped truck people will try to stop by and talk to them.

In grocery stores, in their archery shop in Richmond, Michigan, and even at gas stations, people come up to Don and Mkena to get a picture or even just to talk. "I don't mind people coming up to me, but it worries me when people try to talk to Mkena," said Don.

Szczesniak Starts Soccer Career

Matthew Schuster
Opinions Co-editor

Going to college to get a degree and start your life is some people's goal, but Allan Szczesniak is able to do that goal and play the sport he fell in love with as a child. Siena Heights University has offered Allan money to play soccer at their college. He will be playing keeper, fighting for a starting spot his freshman year.

Allan has played soccer since he can remember, but he didn't play goalie when he was growing up; he played striker or ever center midfield.

Szczesniak said, "It wasn't until we got out of AYSO and went into travel soccer that I played keeper. My coach made me play it. At first I didn't like it. I actually hated it but now I love it."

With being 6'2 now, he always was one of the tallest kids growing up, and that's why he was pushed to play keeper. No one wanted to play keeper when they were younger.

"You felt like you weren't part of the team because you weren't running around with them. You were just sitting in net trying to stop goals," said Szczesniak.

But when you get older and begin to play that position, you realize that it's the most important position on the soccer field. And Allan fell in love with it.

When Allan goes to Siena, he wants to go into the medical field and study nursing specifically. There are many fields in nursing, but Allan doesn't want to stay in Michigan; he wants to travel the world.

Allan said, "I like the medical field, and I want to be a traveling nurse to travel around the United States."

Allan has a cousin who is a nurse and he is able to travel around the United States for his job. Allan's uncle, Kyle Bond, also went to Siena

Heights University. He was able to play soccer and pursue his passion.

But don't think Allan is doing this because his uncle is. He made this decision on his own. Obviously his uncle had a little influenced and Allan found out about this so much because his Uncle Kyle went through it and is now living his dream.

Szczesniak said, "I knew before my uncle Kyle was going into nursing that I wanted. My mom always said I would be really good and that I should look into it as a career. When I saw my uncle and heard what he was doing, I got even more excited and knew that I really wanted to do that for my career."

Even though Allan has always known what he wanted to do for a career, he wasn't always sure if he wanted to play soccer in college. There were times when he didn't want to play soccer. He thought about quitting and never play again. Everyone goes through phases like that where they don't want to do something that they love.

Szczesniak said, "I knew I loved the game the game when I went to travel soccer with a bunch of my friends from school, I was always on and off about playing college soccer. Last year during my travel season during the spring that I wanted to play college soccer."

Allan played for three travel soccer teams while playing in his high school soccer. He played for Nova, and then went to the Jaguars and his senior year he went on to play for the Nationals.

The Jaguars are a club soccer team that played in Novi. There isn't much difference between club teams other than where you practice and who's on your team. All travel teams at the higher level have kids that can compete. They all are close to the same level and it's a close game with

everyone you play.

Allan said, "The main reason I switched to the Nationals from the Jaguars is because of where we practiced. It was about 30 minutes closer when practicing with the Nationals."

Allan has played with his high school teammates for about six to seven years before coming into freshman year. His freshman year seven freshman started in the playoffs, and he was one of them.

His senior year there were nine seniors starting and two that came off the bench. They had amazing chemistry and it was obvious they have been playing together for a long time. They always looked happy and pushed each other to the limit every day and every game.

Szczesniak said, "Playing with the seniors all four years was something special. We had seven freshman who started in Districts. I've played with these people since I was seven to eight years old. I got to know a lot of them very well over these ten years."

While Allan was in high school, he went on to win two Districts trophies, his junior and senior year. His junior year they went to lose in the Regional Finals. His senior year his team lost 2-1 with five minutes left in double overtime in the Regional semis game.

Allan said, "I think playing with these 11 seniors is what I am going to miss the most when I graduate. I have been playing soccer with them ever since I can remember. We all went to travel together, and even though most of us drifted away, high school brought us together."