Youth Artist Spotlight

Abigail Meggett

Join us as we dive deeper into our community's talented youth! *With a new airing schedule, you have even more opportunities to catch our Youth Spotlight interviews.* ***Tune in to Jazz 93.5 every Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.***



Abigail, or Abby, Meggett is a Lewis-Palmer High School student and member of their Wind Symphony and Jazz Band. You can also hear her performing with Ascent Big Band and the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony!

Learn more about this passionate musician below.

Part 1: *Getting to Know the Artist*

Tell us a little about yourself. *Where do you go to school right now, and what are you studying or involved in musically?*

I'm a junior at Lewis-Palmer High School, and I'm busy with jazz bands, concert bands, and orchestra. Every day I'm playing with others at my school in our jazz band and Wind Symphony, and on some days, I'm playing with orchestras, other jazz bands, and chamber groups. Basically, every moment of every day is filled with music.

What instrument do you play and how did you get started? *How old were you when you first began learning music? What made you choose your instrument or decide to sing? How did you discover jazz?*

I play tenor saxophone for jazz, but I'm primarily a clarinet player. I picked up the clarinet when I was 11 years old though I had some musical experience in piano beforehand. I wanted to play saxophone, but my school district had a requirement for students to play clarinet for a year before they could try saxophone. I ended up falling in love with playing clarinet along the way, even

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when I picked up tenor sax. I was always familiar with what jazz was, but I only really started to dive into what it meant to play jazz on my saxophone for about a year into my private lessons.

Do you remember a moment when music really became exciting or meaningful for you? *Maybe it was hearing a recording, seeing a live performance, or playing in a band or combo.*

I vividly remember one instance that completely changed what jazz meant to me, and that was at the 2025 UNC Greeley Jazz Festival. That year featured the Count Basie Orchestra, and my school went to see them perform. I can't even properly put into words just how amazing it was to be in that audience. They were just incredible from the band to the soloists, and their performance really motivated me to seriously pursue being a great jazz musician.

Part 2: *Your Musical Journey*

Who has helped, inspired, or influenced you the most in music so far?

There are so many wonderful people I have had the honor of working with. I'd say Mr. Butch Eversole, my saxophone teacher, is my greatest influence in jazz. He's both an experienced player and teacher, and I wouldn't be close to the same player I am now without him. I also must mention my school director, Mr. Sam Anderson, and the director of the Ascent Big Band, Mr. Dan Bell. I'm so grateful for the opportunities to grow as a musician and to have the chance to play in their bands.

What ensembles or groups do you play or sing with? *Tell us about your jazz band, combo, school groups, or any other ensembles you play with and what you enjoy about them.*

Currently, I'm a member of two jazz bands. I play in Lewis-Palmer's jazz band and the Ascent Big Band through the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony program. My favorite part of both of those bands is who I get to play with. Many of my close friends are in Lewis-Palmer's jazz band, and I love getting to jam with people I care about. As for Ascent, it has got to be the best ensemble I've ever played in because everyone in it is so talented and passionate. The environment really pushes me to work hard and be the best I can be.

What was one of your favorite or most memorable musical experiences so far?

My most memorable experience would have to be playing at the CMEA conference earlier this year in February. Lewis-Palmer's jazz band was selected to play at the conference, which was a huge honor in itself. What really made it so memorable was a sax battle between me and our lead alto. It was the most fun solo I've ever done, and I'm so glad I got to share it with one of the best sax players

I know. The chart we battled on, "Ya Gotta Try" by Nestico, is still one of my favorite big band charts so many months later.

Part 3: *Inspiration & Looking Ahead*

What musicians or albums have you been listening to lately? *Is there anyone who's playing really inspires you?*

Recently, I've really enjoyed listening to Cleo Laine. I adore vocal jazz, and I just love how smooth and rich Cleo Laine's voice is. My favorite track of hers is "'T'ain't What You Do (It's The Way That Cha Do It)" because her voice satisfies my ears in a way I can't even explain. I've also been listening to Scott Hamilton and Dexter Gordon because they are my biggest inspiration as a tenor sax player. I love how warm Scott Hamilton's sound is and the way that Dexter Gordon solos, so I'm striving to combine those aspects into my own playing.

What do you enjoy most about playing jazz? *Do you like improvising, playing with other musicians, exploring different styles, or something else?*

It's difficult to just pick one aspect of jazz, but I'd have to go with playing in a big band. I love the community that comes with a large group of people devoted to making music together. On top of that, I just love the sound of big band tunes, and it's even better to be in the middle of it and to be part of the sound.

What do you like to do when you're not making music? *How do these other activities influence your creativity, balance, or perspective as a musician?*

Oh, gosh, that's hard to answer since so much of my life is in some way related to music. I love to hike and be in nature, and I've noticed especially recently that I experience nature just as much with my ears as my eyes. Nature is also just a perfect creative environment for me. I also write frequently, and that exercise of my imagination and creativity definitely connects back to improvisation and composition. Music is still my number one hobby, and it connects to just about everything I do.

How do you see music being part of your future? *Do you hope to keep performing, study music further, or simply continue playing for fun?*

I know music will always be a part of my life. I plan to keep playing all my instruments through college and even past that. Performing is a valuable experience to me that I want to continue with beyond high school. I'm considering either minoring in music or including it in a double major for college. Music is my biggest passion, and I know it will stay with me throughout my life.

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