



# Katy's up-and-coming country music star has big plans for her future

Written by Kennan Buckner | Photography courtesy of Madison Paige

Katy born and raised, 18-year-old Madison Paige finds herself at home behind the microphone and performing on stage. She's been singing since she could talk. "It is something that is natural to me," Paige says. "It's the only thing I've spent my whole life doing."

### Her Kind of Country

Paige describes her take on country music as funky, truthtelling, and personal. Her debut EP album *Lace and Pearls* released May 6. She worked with Stormy Cooper and Lyndon Hughes of Stormy Cooper Media to produce the album. It includes the already released single "Stand Tall."

"My fans can expect personal experiences with every song on the album as they are all originals," says Paige. "This EP album is a huge stepping stone in my career." She also recently won first place in the senior division of Rodeo Rockstar at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

#### A True Performer

When Paige was just 5 years old, she made her debut on stage at Schmalz Elementary School's talent show. While she was singing Annie's "Tomorrow" the electricity went out, but that didn't stop Paige. "I got off the stage and walked down into the audience of kids and parents and just sang my heart out," she remembers. It was then that her music teacher told her mother, "I can teach someone to sing, but I can't teach someone stage presence, and she has it."

Paige had a chance to audition on this season's series of *The Voice*. She says she attended an open casting call and made it all the way through to the blind auditions. When asked if she was nervous, she shares, "I wasn't until I hit the stage where the judges were." Although she didn't make it through to the next round, she says the experience helped her make a lot of great friends and learn more about the business.

## **Overcoming Bullying**

Paige is a former Katy High School student and is finishing her high school career as a homeschooler. "My biggest obstacle has been bullying," Paige shares. She experienced unbelievable things at the hands of her bullies including choking, cyberbullying, and more. "I always broke down from it, and it seriously got to me mentally. I almost quit what I loved because of it." Since then, Paige has found her strength. "I have learned maturity comes through hard times."

#### Life as an Artist

These days, when she's not making plans for college, she is pursuing music. "I have my head wrapped around singing as it is my only job," she says. "Some dreams for the future are to create a band, start my first tour, and become an opener for country fairs and rodeos. Music will always come first."

Her music process is truly original. A self-taught guitar player for eight years, Paige often finds inspiration from daily life. She grabs her guitar, songwriting journal, and Macbook. "I hit record in the Photo Booth app and sing what I feel come to my heart. Then in some cases, I will be so upset that I write words down to a melody. I just randomly sing in my head and then put guitar chords to it," says Paige.

## Hometown Support

No matter where her music takes her, Paige says Katy will be a part of it. She's gained most of her music performing experience in her hometown. "Katy has been the root of all my support. From my family to my friends to my fans to the strangers that come across me, Katy has been my number one," she says. **KM** 

Check out her YouTube channel and Facebook page "The Madison Paige Country"