

*Finding A*  
**VOICE**



COURTESY PHOTO  
Yankton High School student Hunter Baugh's love of music has led to the release of his first CD "Bookshelf Songs." He describes his music as a combination of folk, bluegrass and pop. "I think I identify more with my parents' generation and their parents' generation because it's banjo, finger-pick guitar, and it's very laid back."

**YHS Student Expresses Himself With Music In His First CD**

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**F**or Hunter Baugh, songwriting hasn't always come easy. "I'd write music and hate the lyrics, or write lyrics and hate the music," said Baugh, a senior at Yankton High School.

But thanks to one of his classes, he was able to find his muse.

"I took American Lit my junior year and started reading classical poetry and novels like 'The Great Gatsby,' and that sort of became a literary inspiration," he said. "As soon as I started reading more, the music and the lyrics kind of came together easily and it started to make sense about how to build concept into song."

Over the past year, the 17-year-old used that inspiration to create his first CD, "Bookshelf Songs," which he recently released.

Baugh said the album's title is not only an homage to his teacher, Bob Beard, who inspired his love for reading, but also an accurate description of the music.

"I heard a really awesome guitar player and singer say once, 'You can rip off Shakespeare all you want and no one is going to sue you,'" he said with a laugh. "So I kind of took that approach, and a lot of the songs have literary influences, whether it be the Bible, 'The Great Gatsby,' or other classical novels. You can take a song and say there was a book that inspired it, and you can do that with almost every track."

Baugh described the album's music as bluegrass, folk-ish pop, saying it is different from a lot of music that is coming out right now.

"When I was writing it, I was wondering, 'Are any of my friends going to like this?' because most teenagers listen to rap or hard rock," he said. "I think I identify more with my parents' generation and their parents' generation because it's banjo, finger-pick guitar, and it's very laid back. But they are not aimless love songs that a lot of music on the radio is. There's a message behind all of it."

Baugh recorded the CD with local studio MADmx

and its owner, Todd Carr, who is a teacher at YHS.

The two began working on the album last January, and Carr said it didn't take long for Baugh to make a strong impression.

"He would come up and start working on a song and the next time we'd get together, he'd say 'Well, you know, I sat down and I wrote a couple more,'" Carr said. "And I was kind of sitting in my chair wondering if he was putting these together in an hour's time, and that's what he was doing. He was writing some neat music. He's got some great guitar ability and lots of potential."

The recording process also made quite the impression on Baugh, who said it was "frustrating and weird and awesome all at the same time."

"We would record the song, and then I'd sing over it and add harmonies and stuff. I have to say, singing with myself is about the weirdest thing I've ever done," he said. "And then there were the moments where you'd be offbeat one second and you have to go back and redo the whole thing. Music became a lot more of a job than just writing a song for fun... I wouldn't say it really took the fun out of it, but it totally changed my perspective with music."

Along with music, Baugh is also very involved at his church, Yankton First Assembly of God. He leads the worship band two to three times each month for Wednesday night services, volunteers for children's ministry and serves as a student leader in the youth ministry. He has also performed in various musical productions at the church.

Because of his convictions, Baugh is also participating in the MADmx T-Plus project, which dedicates a minimum of 10 percent of music sales to a mission of the artist's choosing.

"I chose the 10 percent to go to my church," he said. "But then my personal profit goes to a nonprofit organization that I sponsor as an artist called Clothe Your Neighbors Yourself, which gives clothing and help to the homeless. It's a really awesome movement."

"Bookshelf Songs" can be purchased via Baugh's website at <http://madmx.hopto.org/HunterBaugh>, as well as through several online marketers such as iTunes, AmazonMp3 and Rhapsody.

For booking information, email [bookhunterbah@gmail.com](mailto:bookhunterbah@gmail.com).



Hunter Baugh (Courtesy Photo)



COURTESY PHOTO  
Hunter Baugh, a Yankton High School student who has just released his first CD, says he found his musical voice in an American Literature class. "(I) started reading classical poetry and novels like 'The Great Gatsby,' and that sort of became a literary inspiration. As soon as I started reading more, the music and the lyrics kind of came together easily and it started to make sense about how to build concept into song."

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- Salsa Asiago
- Rosemary & Olive Oil Asiago
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