SONG ACADEMY: Sisters Folk Festival produces the annual school

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Greeninger and his daughter and her friends from Santa Cruz, California, have attended camp for the past three years, and they plan on continuing. Greeninger said he is excited to see that the program now has instructors that are closer in age to the students, so the students can really relate to teachers who aren't that much older than them and who are out in the music world doing what they love

"This community is treating these students with respect and offering them tools to be themselves and be creative," he said. "My general philosophy in life has been that if people are treated well and given encouragement, that they rise to be wonderful people. When I see that playing out in Sisters, it's a reaffirmation for me that people really are good, and these students can create in that safe space."

Students connect oneon-one with the instructors

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in classes, song circles, and mentor sessions where students sign up for time with an instructor and receive help with anything related to their songs and craft. In Hayley Heynderickx's writer's block class, students learned about how to climb up "Mt. W" — the who, what, when, where, why of a song.

Lyric writing really gets under my skin, I know I love it because I hate it so much, and it's so complex.

— Liam Brown

SHS student Liam Brown said, "Lyric writing really gets under my skin, I know I love it because I hate it so much, and it's so complex."

Heynderickx's main point is that "songwriting can come in seasons"; she said that you



Anna Tivel and Shae Gascon perform during the Americana Song Academy for Youth Celebration of Song.

don't always have to be writing to be a songwriter.

Throughout the weekend, students are able to ask questions and learn from everyone around them — including each other. Students found

others to collaborate with on their songs — whether it was with Brent Alan's house band, or simply another student playing lead guitar.

The weekend's work was then presented to the

community at the Celebration of Song on Sunday night at The Belfry, where students and instructors performed what they had been working on through the intensive weekend.



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