

CREATIVE COMPOSITIONS

High school senior is a talented composer

BY ALYSSA EVANS

Isabella Morrill was meant to be a musician. Growing up, when she wasn't playing the piano or drums herself, her house was filled with the sounds of her sisters and father playing instruments of their own.

"Music has always been a part of my family," Morrill said.

Morrill, a Warrenton High School senior, is an up-and-coming composer. She also is a skilled pianist, sings, and dabbles in other instruments like French horn, guitar and ukulele.

Where to listen

Morrill regularly posts videos of her performing at [facebook.com/morrillmusic116/](https://www.facebook.com/morrillmusic116/).

The musical house

Just about everyone in Morrill's family is a musician. Her father, Gregory, plays multiple instruments.

"He's always throwing around on a base or a guitar," Morrill said. "He's so instinctual about it. We're all so alike in that way."

Morrill's sisters, Krista and Sophia, also play multiple instruments and sing. Her grandparents are pianists whose careers include jobs with Portland orchestras and "Shanghaied in Astoria."

"It's like, 'How do I live up to this expectation in my family?'" Morrill said. "But it just came naturally. I'm really grateful it did."

The key

At 6 years old, Morrill started taking piano lessons with help from her grandmother. She continued until she was 10 years old.

"It never really clicked with me," Morrill said. "It was just something I had to do because my family was doing it."

As a child, Morrill struggled to be enthusiastic about learning piano because she saw how advanced the rest of her family was when playing their instruments.

"I was like, 'I just want to be there already' so I'd try to jump the gun," Morrill said. "My grandma would say, 'Stop, we just have to do the basics.' I'm really grateful for that experience because without it I wouldn't know how to do the things I'm doing now. That was the foundation."

Morrill's parents wanted her to continue with music until she could join her school's band. After quitting piano, she decided to change pace.

"One day, I turned to my parents and said 'Hello. I want to

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Isabella Morrill, Warrenton High School senior, writes her own compositions.
Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian