

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

## SoundCloud offers online audience for aspiring performers



Photo by Matthew Marvar

Sophomore Stuart Sones works in his recording studio to create a new piece to upload to SoundCloud.

Matthew Marvar | Staff Writer

Spotify, move over.

Introducing: SoundCloud. An online platform that is growing in popularity, the site offers musicians an opportunity to share their music online and to network with other artists. This social media tool is used by 175 million people around the world, according to the company's data, and even by a few students at Mason High School. Sophomore Stuart Sones is an avid user of SoundCloud.

Sones joined a few years ago and has since been using it to showcase his work and to share his love for music with fellow SoundCloud users.

"I do it just to show my friends and family what I've been doing with my interests," Sones said. "It's really fun when some random user stumbles upon your work and also enjoys what you like."

According to junior Owen Tidd,

that's exactly the point. SoundCloud, which does not offer the option to purchase music, provides the perfect space for users to upload all different kinds of music, production-ready or not. Tidd, who doesn't upload to SoundCloud but is familiar with its workings, said that artists from everywhere come to use the site.

"It's a website where you have the ability to listen to other people's music whether it's not very produced or has gone through production," Tidd said. "It's more like a networking system that caters towards musicians in the whole spectrum. It can be people that make basement recordings or people who (professionally produce music)."

Despite what one may think, the site is not used to make music, according to senior Jacob Steinhauer who said that he records his music, stitches it together, then sends it to the site.

"I usually start with a guitar part, then I'll write a bass part or drums," Steinhauer said. "Then I'll write a vocal melody, then I'll write lyrics to the vocal melody. It goes from there, arranging everything, putting stuff in order."

Steinhauer said that working to make music proved to be difficult before sites like SoundCloud. Producing music was expensive, and getting it out there was even harder.

"First of all, you didn't have access to recording equipment back then because everything was analog and big and bulky and really expensive because the technology was fairly new," Steinhauer said.

According to Steinhauer, the problems that faced up-and-coming artists 30 years ago are now solved. Because of the ease in price in recording equipment and new sites like SoundCloud, Steinhauer said, artists can now produce their music

for little cost, upload it for free, and then network online with other artists.

"Nowadays, you have access to amps, mics, anything you want for way cheaper than back then," Steinhauer said. "And since computers are becoming such a big thing, it's easier to record everything you want and make it sound like professional quality without the use of a producer. You can do everything yourself."

Sones fully endorsed this. He said that SoundCloud helps artists from all over in becoming more independent and expressive with their music.

"It's a great thing because I think we can promote ourselves and our individuality," Sones said. "I doubt that I will become this big star nor do I care to be, but it's basically for myself to keep exploring and expressing my feelings...it's the power of the people rather than the power of the music corporation."

