

# Student Spotlight:

## Isaac Lasky '26

By Phoenix Stoker-Graham '24

Cue the confetti and trumpets! The School of Music is coming up on the one-year anniversary of the start of the Songwriting program, and we are feeling the spirit of celebration in the Music Building. We figured it would be a good way to acknowledge the momentous milestone by interviewing Songwriting pupil Isaac Lasky for our student spotlight.



Isaac began writing music as a hobby in his sophomore year of high school. His musical journey has been guided by music teachers who have been supportive yet honest about career possibilities as a songwriter. In his first year in the UPS Songwriting program, Isaac told us he “strengthened [his] musicianship and understanding of music theory,” became familiar with “the physical production of music” and “the challenges of composition,” and learned how to find opportunities as a musician. Isaac believes the skills he is learning now will be useful for a wide variety of positions in the music industry.

Isaac was drawn to the Songwriting major because of its “separation from the traditional formality of other majors in music.” He has always wanted to study music in some way, but as a person who was not classically trained on any instrument, and who liked to sing (but not in choral settings), he felt the standard classical music track was not the right fit for him. The Songwriting major also appealed to Isaac because it serves as a “good bridge” between music theory and composition techniques and allows him the flexibility to dabble in a range of musical genres.

“It’s...awesome to be at the forefront of a brand-new major where we get to define what we want to see in the future of this program,” Isaac said.

The experiences Isaac has had in the Songwriting program have already helped him with his musical projects, including his band “Sadomasochistic Candy,” or “Sadocandy.” Isaac’s songwriting skills have improved due to his growing understanding of music theory and vocal techniques. He is also better equipped for finding gigs and recording opportunities.

Outside of music, Isaac enjoys playing sports and watching movies. He has had fun participating in intramurals and attending film club movie showings on campus. We here at the School of Music are excited to see how Isaac and the Songwriting program continue to grow in the coming years!



Photo credit: Alex Crook