

# JESSIE STARNES

## DREAMS AND PASSION COME TO LIFE



Caption: Jessie Starnes performing at the Boston Public Library, June 26th, 2024 Photo by Claire Robertson

Story by: Claire Robertson | robertson.claire@icloud.com

The sun is setting, the air is cool, however one artist has brought people into the Boston Public Library on a beautiful summer night. Upcoming artist Jessie Starnes carried them through the night with her folk and pop music.

Starnes is a rising senior at Berklee School of Music in Boston where she majors in Professional Music with concentrations in Music Business and Songwriting.

Starnes moved across the country from her small hometown in Seattle Washington to pursue her career in the best way possible.

"Coming to a space where everybody loves pop music and jazz and more niche kinds and want to play all the time or be producers and song writers and artists, it is really such a cool experience," Starnes said. "Every little part of it was worth it to come across the country."

While she had the support of her parents, Starnes had struggles with herself going into music.

"I think it is really hard as a young person to admit to yourself that you want to go into the arts," Starnes said. "For some reason it is normalized for people to kind of shame younger people for wanting to go into an artistic field, and then the second that person gets a drop of success they claim that they have been a supporter the whole

**"I think it's really hard as a young person to admit to yourself that you want to go into the arts."**

time. It is something I have seen time and time again."

When she was applying for college, Starnes thought about pursuing music business.

However, she knew deep down her dream was to be a singer/songwriter. When she stopped "suppressing" herself from her dream she went for it.

She now enjoys working with other song writers



Caption: Jessie Starnes performing at the Boston Public Library, June 26th, 2024 Photo by Claire Robertson

at Berklee and expanding her songwriting skills to genres that are out of her comfort zone. She explained that the writing process is very long for her.

"I think for me the most raw and organic process is sitting down with my guitar or piano and just word-vomiting," Starnes said. She says that she will clean anything that isn't quite to her liking and



Caption: Jessie Starnes performing at the Boston Public Library, June 26th, 2024 Photo by Claire Robertson



## JESSIE STARNES

### DREAMS AND PASSION COME TO LIFE

and listen for what really “resonated with her heart.” This is why Starnes can capture such an audience like she did at the Boston Public Library on June 26, 2024.

She is not focused on the recognition that a song will potentially receive, but how it will resonate with herself and others.

For the 45 minutes Starnes was performing, the audience sat wrapped not taking their eyes off the singer as she strummed her guitar.

“I thought [the performance] was very

good job and seeing her interact with the guitarist was really cute.”

As Starnes continues her career, she hopes to release original music later this year or early next on Spotify and other streaming platforms. Currently, Starnes is active on tik tok and Instagram at @jessiestarnes. “It is a lot of fun [to work with Jessie],” Grafton said. “I’ve done some sessions with her for some music that I think is going to be really awesome.”

# Berklee

## College of Music

Summer in the  
City



Caption: Jessie Starnes performing at the Boston Public Library,  
June 26th, 2024 Photo by Claire Robertson