



**Mississippi  
Arts+  
Entertainment  
Experience**<sup>SM</sup>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Laura Hester, Director of Programs and Communications  
601-581-1550 x. 35 | [laura@msarts.org](mailto:laura@msarts.org)

**High School Musicians Get Pro Tips, Hone Skills at The MAX**  
Sound of Success participants finish weeklong program with concert

MERIDIAN, Miss. (July 13, 2022) – Eleven students from Mississippi high schools started their summer with a weeklong immersion in the music industry through the Sound of Success program at The MAX. At their commencement, they showed off their talents at a June concert in the museum’s courtyard.

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience, as The MAX is formally called, offers Sound of Success each year to high school juniors and seniors in nearby counties. Participants learned about the mechanisms of the music industry from such professionals as Philadelphia, Mississippi, native Marty Gamblin, a longtime artist manager, promoter, and booking agent, and Meridian’s Todd Tilghman, winner in 2020 of the national TV singing competition *The Voice*.

To participate in the program, students needed a teacher recommendation. From guitarists and pianists to vocalists and lyricists, musicians of all kinds and from varying musical backgrounds applied to develop their skills.

During the May 31-June 4 program, guest speakers shared candid insights into the music industry and outlined many different pathways students could follow to achieve their dreams. Students heard multiple – and sometimes differing – views about the business. Tilghman credited his success to his faith and happenstance. College admissions counselors presented academic approaches to achievement.

Regardless of method, students heard again and again that hard work and dedication are essential.

Students also had the opportunity to write and perform their own original songs. During workshop sessions, they shared interests and ideas with their peers and supported each other’s aspirations.

Here are the Sound of Success participants. Take note, because you’ll probably be seeing their names in lights:

- Abigail Baysinger, Neshoba Central High School
- Laura Bell, Southeast High School
- Tristin Odom, Enterprise High School
- Posey Palmer, Neshoba Central High School
- Lakynn Pickett, Neshoba Central High School
- Lach Thornton, Lamar High School
- Alyssa Thrash, Clarkdale High School

- Dillon Turner, Quitman High School
- George Walker, Meridian High School
- Allie Wyman, Clarkdale High School

### **About The MAX**

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) explores the state's creative legacies in one immersive attraction. Come discover the Mississippi roots of some of the world's arts and entertainment icons – Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King, Faith Hill, Sela Ward, Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, and Jim Henson, to name just a few.

The MAX is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum is located at the corner of Sela Ward Parkway (22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) and Front Street, overlooking the railroad at the edge of Meridian's historic downtown. Street parking is available, with shops and restaurants within walking distance.

For more info, call 601.581.1550, visit [msarts.org](http://msarts.org) or scan QR code.



###