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Medical student Sophie Payten, aka Gordi, combines university study with dreams of pop stardom

JAMES GORMAN • CENTRAL • OCTOBER 28, 2013 9:46AM

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Sophie Payten is a medical student with dreams of pop stardom. Source: News Limited

A 20-year old medical student with a penchant for songwriting could be set to become Sydney's very own singing surgeon.

Sophie Payten, who goes by the stage name Gordi, is still celebrating ahead of the release of her very first EP *Away* which is already getting significant radio air time.

The singer-songwriter has been performing since the age of 12 thanks to her musical mother who helped shape her daughter's passion.

"I think most of my love of music comes from my mother - she is a piano teacher and I have always loved listening and playing music," she said. "I think that has been a big part to do

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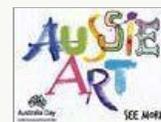
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with where I am today.

"It was when I started high school that I met a whole heap of other people who also loved music which is where I really learned to develop my skills and become a better musician."



Sophie Payten performs under the name of Gordi.

Ms Payten said she began writing songs from an early age.

"I started putting pen to paper and writing my own songs when I was 13, which was great for building up my confidence and getting me into the habit of coming up with creative ideas," she said.

"I can remember some of the first times I performed on stage as a kid were at eisteddfods. I sang my own song at school in front of 4000 people and the feedback I got was great.

"I think that's what really gave me the confidence to keep performing and writing my own material."



Sophie Payten is launching her debut EP on Thursday night.

The Newtown musician said while she is relishing the chance to quench her thirst for music her studies remained top priority.

"I am also a full-time university student studying a bachelor of medicine and a bachelor of

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surgery and while my family are supportive they also help keep me grounded, which helps me prepare for upcoming exams."

Mr Payten said even with the release of her upcoming EP she is still in the midst of discovering her own style of music.

"Finding your own style can be a hard thing and I am still finding mine," she said.

"I have such a broad taste in music and I listened to everything from Billy Joel to James Taylor when I was growing up.

"However it was when I received a Missy Higgins album for my birthday one year that my taste in music began to change and I would say it was a big turning point for me."

■ Gordi's EP launch will take place on Thursday night at The Vanguard, Newtown from 7pm with special guests Revier and Adam George

■ Details: vanguard.com.au

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