

## **Long Bio - Molly McDonald**

This 17 year old country music lover, inspired by teenage icon Taylor Swift, listened to music of all genres growing up in her far suburban Illinois home. Molly has been singing little melodies for as long as she can remember, beginning with her toddler days on her swingset in the backyard. She listened to Taylor Swift sing her to sleep every single night from her first IPOD. With her parents being music lovers, she was exposed to all sorts of music from The Who, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Willie and Waylon, to George Strait, Don Williams, Chris Stapleton, Shania Twain, and of course, Dolly Parton.

Molly performed in choir and theater year round throughout middle school. These musical opportunities introduced her to the prospect of singing and to the joy of being on stage. Molly always loved country music but didn't sing or write her own songs until she moved to the Lone Star State the summer before her sophomore year of high school. It was there her great aunt gave her an old ovation guitar. She was immediately eager to learn, especially as she was now immersed in one of the best music scenes in the nation; Texas.

Molly's first live experience came about when she was dared by a friend to go up and sing a song at what she thought was an open mic night. Molly wasn't one to back down from a dare, so she went up to the stage in the local Italian restaurant and asked the performer if she could sing. It was not an open mic, but the performer kindly suggested she play a song anyway. She borrowed his guitar, played for the restaurant, and was asked to continue with more songs. The generous man approached her shortly after the fact and invited her to meet in the local studio to discuss and spark inspiration for her musical future. This was a stepping stone that gave Molly inspiration to pursue her passion for music past singing songs she wrote in her bedroom. She worked hard to complete her high school credits a semester early with the purpose of having time to focus solely on her artistic endeavors.

Molly graduated from A&M Consolidated High School in December of 2023. A month later, in February, she attended the Austin Songwriters Symposium conference run by Lee Duffy. This event, and the encouragement and feedback she received there, gave her a solid sense of what being an aspiring singer/songwriter and entertainer entails. Currently, one can find Molly writing, gigging, and good timin' in and around her local College Station, TX. Let the good timin' begin!