*(NATS: Daydreamer band playing their song)*

Students gathered in the library on Nov. 5 for Excalibur's Coffee House, a tradition where students perform original songs, poems and other creative work. The event was sold out.

Coffee House didn't happen last year during the pandemic, so the organizers started this year with no prior experience on the events team. According to them, this may be a good thing. *(SHOW: Sequence of Daydreamer’s act, ending with the organizers helping them off the stage and giving a speech, HEAR: Low NATS of Daydreamers song)*

Senior co-events coordinator Keely McNab: I think we've been a lot more open with auditions and everything, because in the past it's usually just been poetry or, like, singing a song. And we kinda opened it up to more, like, a little bit different. Like, we have rhythmic poetry this year, *(SHOW: Rhythmic poetry act, HEAR: Low NATS of the poem)* we have an improv pianist. *(SHOW: Improv pianist, HEAR: Low NATS of the piano)* So that's been a little new.

In her first public performance of her writing, senior Sydney Lowe recited an original poem. *(SHOW: WMT Shots of Lowe’s performance, HEAR: Low NATS of her poem)*

Senior Sydney Lowe: It's about a healing process that I went through in my life, and it just means a lot for me to get out my feelings through writing

*(SHOW: Lowe reciting her poem, HEAR: NATS excerpt of her poem)*

A lot of the time, I have a metaphor in my head, and then I work my whole poem around that metaphor. For this one, the metaphor was clay and sunsets. *(SHOW: Tight shot of Lowe performing, HEAR: Lowe NATS of Lowe’s poem)*

Senior Eden Goodman also performed a poem, entitled 'Raggedy Ann.' *(SHOW: Wide shot of Lowe taking the stage, HEAR: Low NATS of crowd cheering)*

Senior Eden Goodman: I think the biggest thing about poetry is telling a story, and like, writing connects people together, so I think that that's the purpose of it.

*(SHOW: Goodman reciting her poem, HEAR: NATS of excerpt of Goodman’s poem)*

One time I performed at an open mic and some 30-year-old woman came up to me, she was crying, and she was like, 'Oh, that was so beautiful.' And that was like, 'Oh, wow.' Like, that's a goal I have, is for people to feel something from what I write. And that kind of showed me that I could make people feel something.

Although performing can be a vulnerable thing, freshman Robin Kulhanek feels at home on the stage. *(SHOW: Establishing shot of Kulhanek performing his song, HEAR: Low NATS of song)*

*(SHOW: Sequence of Kulhanek’s performance, HEAR: NATS of an excerpt of performance)*

A guitarist and a singer, he performed an original song entitled "Siren." *(SHOW: Reestablishing wide shot of Kulhanek performing, HEAR: Low NATS of song)*

Freshman Robin Kulhanek: I've done performances my whole life. I guess they're here to see a good show, so I just internalize that.

Senior Jessie Lucas performed an original pride song called 'Stunning Honey.' *(SHOW: Tight shot of Lucas singing, HEAR: Low NATS of song)*

Senior Jessie Lucas: I kind of thought of it as not only a letter to myself, but a letter to everybody else that is figuring themselves out, or needs a confidence boost or something.

*(SHOW: Sequence of Lucas singing, HEAR: NATS of excerpt of Lucas’ song)*

I think McCallum's a perfect place to perform this, personally, because we're such a cool eclectic community of people.

This has been Samantha Powers reporting for The Shield Online. *(SHOW: WMT of final Coffeehouse performer, HEAR: Low NATS of song)*

*(NATS: Crowd cheering for final performance)*