

Artist Spotlight: Gabby Carr

*By Valerie Musson
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One of the many reasons that people love Fredonia's on and off-campus music scenes is because of its versatility and acceptance of musicians of all different skill levels. From beginners to pros, there is truly a place for everyone.

Junior Music Industry major Gabby Carr has definitely taken advantage of all that Fredonia's music scene has to offer. Primarily a vocalist, Carr admits that at first it was difficult for her to find her way into School of Music activities due to her non-music major status.

“Because I did not end up being a music major when I got here, I've had an interesting relationship with the School of Music,” says Carr. “At first, it was sort of hard to infiltrate and find things to do and work on and performances, but once I got involved with all the groups I am now, performing became a much more regular thing for me. I definitely feel that the faculty I've worked with have shaped me as a musician.”

Carr is a current member of multiple vocal groups, including The Riveters, Dynamic Intonation, and the Fredonia Voices. She has also been involved in Women's Choir in the past and she credits all of these groups for further developing her musical ability.

“I love these groups. They have been wonderful for me both musically and just because they're communities of people who also love to sing together,” says Carr. “They also have provided some awesome experience. The Fredonia Voices has gotten to do shows with professional orchestras and big bands, and at my level of experience, that's pretty amazing.”

Although Carr is thankful for her experience with on-campus vocal groups, she says it's her neo-soul band, GVK (Gabby, Vaughn, and Kate), that's been the highlight of her college experience.

“They are two of my favorite people, and to be able to make music with them is awesome,” says Carr of band mates Vaughn Faison and Kate Gratson. “We basically got started because we were all in an acapella group and became friends, and we just eventually started playing music together. Really, it grew out of performing at EBC Open Mic Nights last year.”

Carr has a word of advice for non-music majors who seek to take advantage of Fredonia's endless musical opportunities.

“I think being in the school of music as a non-music major, you have to make yourself known, because there's so many kids who are in the School of Music, the faculty can't physically seek you out to work with you. You have to look for those opportunities, and I think that's really been good for me.”

Finally, Carr has a few more words of wisdom for all aspiring musicians.

“First, surround yourself with people who are better than you are, at whatever it is you want to do, and learn from them. Letting yourself feel that inferiority will drive you to work so hard. Second, put yourself out there! Know that you have a skill that not everyone has and that it is valuable! We so often forget this, but it's so important.”

Above all else, Carr has high hopes for her musical career.

“I really want to continue studying and performing, both in groups and with GVK and on my own,” says Carr. “I know that my future will contain a lot of different things, but I know for certain that music will always be one of them.”