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DAVIS ISLANDS

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Living

MEET
COUNTRY
MUSIC ARTIST
**JUDYANNE
JACKSON!**

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Old Soul
ARTIST

Judy Anne Jackson

As a toddler, JudyAnne Jackson hummed before she could talk. Now, at only 14 years old, JudyAnne has released her first country music EP titled *Old Soul* and has a string of performances scheduled around the local Tampa Bay area.

JudyAnne lives with her parents, Erin and Brad, who both work with the law firm Johnson Jackson PLLC in Tampa – Erin as an attorney and Brad as the firm administrator. JudyAnne also has an older brother Ben (16), and Brooklyn, a 3-year-old (and very energetic) English cocker spaniel.

The music bug bit JudyAnne in kindergarten when she entered a talent show and sang “Part of Your World” from *The Little Mermaid*. JudyAnne won first place and loved the experience of being on stage. After the talent show, JudyAnne joined Entertainment Review, a singing and dancing group for girls which honed her performing skills. By the age of 8, JudyAnne had saved enough allowance money to purchase a guitar and has been taking guitar lessons ever since. In addition to guitar, JudyAnne plays piano and picks up the ukulele on occasion. JudyAnne is thrilled to be able to play the character of *The Little Mermaid’s* Ariel in her school’s eighth-grade play this year. What a “full-circle” experience from her kindergarten talent show win that started her down the music path in the first place!

The release party for *Old Soul* fell on the same weekend as JudyAnne’s 14th birthday last November. It was held at The Attic in Ybor City and JudyAnne described it as the “coolest experience I’ve ever had” because all her friends, family, and people

who had been there throughout JudyAnne’s music journey were there supporting her. As a songwriter, one of the greatest experiences is people singing your lyrics back to you onstage. That’s exactly what happened the night of the *Old Soul* release party, and JudyAnne is still reliving the exhilarating experience.



The EP features three original songs and one cover, “Angel from Montgomery” by John Prine. JudyAnne says her album and single is named “Old Soul” because that’s what people call her. “People say I act mature for my age ... and I love old music a lot. I’m a really big fan of old country or 50s music, artists like John Prine and Patsy Cline – I love them,” explained JudyAnne.

Like most creative types, sometimes inspiration just pops up out of nowhere, like in English class at school. JudyAnne wrote some of the lyrics for the song “Stand Tall” on some sticky notes during class. Then she went home, picked up her guitar, and added a melody – then brought it to a co-writer, Parker McKay, a Nashville songwriter. The product is a bluesy, pop-ish sound with inspirational lyrics:



*I always try to do the best I can
But it don't always go the way
that I planned
When one door closes
I know it's alright
I was meant for more
Than what's on the other side.*

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Taylor Swift is one of JudyAnne's biggest influences, and her favorite album is Taylor Swift's 2012 album *Red*. Taylor Swift, who began a music career almost as early as JudyAnne has, is, of course, a household name now. JudyAnne saw her first Taylor Swift concert even before her kindergarten talent show win, and says if she ever got to meet Taylor, she would ask her, "What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?"

As far as plans for the future, JudyAnne is going to keep honing her skills and playing live shows such as Tampa's Gasparilla Music Festival she played in February. She pictures herself attending college in Nashville, TN, so she can immerse herself in the music scene there.

If you ask JudyAnne what her favorite song is right now, she'll probably stammer and ask, "How can I possibly pick?" Here's her "on the spot" answer – "Well, I like 'Yellow' by Coldplay a lot. And Luke Combs! Any Luke Combs song. I listen to Luke Combs every morning," JudyAnne said.

It might seem that JudyAnne is all about music, but it is her other loves -- basketball, boating, hiking, painting, reading, and baking that keep her well-rounded. JudyAnne credits her parents, Erin and Brad, for always being there for her, supporting her music, and encouraging her – "my parents help me strive to be the best person I can be," she stated.



JudyAnne's music can be found wherever you stream your music – scan this QR code to find out more!

Keep up with JudyAnne's career and view her performing schedule by visiting www.judyannejackson.com.



If you would like to introduce your family or have a resident to spotlight in an upcoming issue of *Davis Islands Living*, please email davisislandseditor@n2pub.com.

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