

# State teen brings her new musical style to Lake Compounce this summer

By MIKE CHAIKEN  
EDITIONS EDITOR

When The Observer last touched base with teen singer Courtney Drummey of Simsbury back in 2007, the then- 13-year-old was already a regular on local stages and dreaming of being America's next Kelly Clarkson.

Shoot forward three years, Courtney is now 16, playing on even more stages, and now is looking at turning her focus on the world of country music... hoping to become America's next Taylor Swift.

Courtney will be a regular performer in this area, as she joins the line up of Lake Compounce's "Lake After Dark" series on Fridays July 16, Aug. 6, and Aug. 13. She takes the stage at the Croc Pot from 7 to 9 p.m. each of those nights.

As noted, Courtney is no newcomer to music. She

hit the stage at a mere 4-years-old when performed in a talent show. And she has had the opportunity to open for a slew of national acts, such as Demi Lovato, Mitchell Musso, The Veronicas, Toby Keith, Sheryl Crow, and the Jonas Brothers, as well as perform on her own.

Until recently, Courtney had put her focus on a career performing pop music. In fact, she released a song in June, "Erased," which fits squarely in the world of pop. (She said the song had been written a while ago and she wanted to finish it at last.)

Courtney has had a few brushes with the world of country, including gigs performing at the Cadillac Ranch in Southington to help raise money for St. Jude's Hospital. Also, her rendition of "Star Spangled Banner" is played on a reg-



MIKE CHAIKEN

Courtney Drummey

ular basis at Country 92.5 FM.

Now, she's succumbed to the charms of country full throttle and that's where she intends to stay.

"I love Taylor Swift and I love country music in general," said Courtney in a

phone interview. "It's a great way to go."

A songwriter herself, Courtney said she begun collaborating with another musician. She started jotting down lyrics. He started composing music. They began experimenting writing in a bunch of different music styles, said Courtney. And country music seemed to be the right fit for the songwriting partners.

The summer gig at Lake Compounce began

with an email from the amusement park inviting her to be part of the entertainment package at the park, said Courtney. She had performed at the park a couple of times before, offering acoustic sets for patrons, said Courtney. Those gigs tended to be one-off opportunities. This year, however, they wanted her for three nights. "I was thrilled."

"It's great to have three performances (at the same venue)," said Courtney. Usually, like most singers, she performs at venues just once and then heads off to another.

For the Compounce gigs, Courtney said two of the nights will be acoustic gigs, just her and her guitar. The third night, she said, she will be performing with her band. During all of her performers, Courtney promised a mix of originals and cover songs everyone knows.

Asked what her most exciting gig has been since she last spoke with The Observer in 2007, Courtney bypassed performances

with the name acts and cited a gig she had at Six Flags Over New England in April. She said that show included several other young performers such as herself.

Although she has been writing and recording her own music, Courtney said she's not itching for a record deal. She prefers to release her music independently. She said she doesn't want to tie herself down to one label... unless the perfect deal comes along.

Courtney will be heading into her junior year of high school. While her peers are thinking of college, Courtney is looking elsewhere.

Courtney said she'd like to go to college eventually. However, she wants to see where her music is going to take her first.

"Hopefully," said Courtney, "something will happen."

For more about Courtney, go to CourtneyDrummey.com, find her on Facebook, or visit LakeCompounce.com

## Kids' listings

### SUNDAY, JULY 18

#### OTHER

**BUBBLE SUNDAY.** 1, 2, 3 p.m. Bubbles will be taken to a whole new level with special guest Casey Carl.

"Bubblemania: Science, Art and

Comedy." The Children's Museum, 950 Trout Brook Dr., West Hartford.

TheChildrensMuseumCT.org

### JULY 19 to 23

#### OTHER

### COLONIAL ADVENTURE FOR KIDS.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nathan Hale Homestead, 2299 South St., Coventry. (860) 742-6917, hale@ctlandmarks.org

## Theater listings

### JULY 16-17

#### SOUTHINGTON

**CHICAGO.** Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. Southington Summer Stage. The classic musical. Southington High School, Pleasant Street, Southington.

### THURSDAY, JULY 22

#### OTHER

**CASTING CALL FOR SONDHEIM'S 'SIDE BY SIDE.'** 6 p.m. Looking for one male and three females from 25 to 40 years old. Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Rd., West Hartford. Rehearsals start Aug. 16 for show that runs Sept. 8 to 19. casting@playhousetheatre.org, (860) 523-5900 ext.

### JULY 22-23

#### SOUTHINGTON

### WILLY WONKA JR.

Southington Youth Summer Theater. Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 11 a.m. and Friday at 7 p.m. Based on the story "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl. Southington High School, Pleasant Street, Southington.

### NOW thru AUG. 14

#### OTHER

**HIGH.** A new play by Matthew Lombardo starring Kathleen Turner. Theater Works, 233 Pearl St., Hartford. (860) 527-7838. TheaterWorksHartford.org

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Get listed. E-mail or fax notices — with dates, time, address, cost and phone number — to mchaiken@BristolObserver.com or (860)621-1841. Or mail them to Calendar, The Observer/Step Saver, 213 Spring St., Southington CT 06489. Please submit listings at least two weeks prior to the event.

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