

Danielle Bradbery

from Cy Ranch High School to Center Stage

Season four winner of *The Voice* enters the music scene with a bang

Written by Kennan Buckner

Cy Ranch teen Danielle Bradbery took the world by storm as she transformed from a fan of NBC's *The Voice* to its season four winner in front of a live TV audience. "Before I was on *The Voice*, I was always a big fan of it," says Bradbery. "I told everybody, 'Oh my gosh, if I was on *The Voice*, I'd be on team Blake. He's so awesome.'"

It all started after three of the show's judges turned their chairs around during her blind audition performance of Taylor Swift's "Mean." Soon, an on-stage duel over whose team Bradbery would pick broke out between Adam Levine and Shelton. "I chose Blake's team, and I couldn't have made a better choice. He was always so sweet and wanted to help with every aspect. We still keep in contact," Bradbery adds. "He is amazing." Under the coaching of Shelton, Bradbery proved that they both made the best choice when she took home the coveted microphone trophy.

A Cy Ranch Mustang

Prior to the show, Bradbery had never had a voice lesson and was actually very shy when it came to her vocal talents. "I would never sing in front of anybody," she recalls.

When she travels, either her mom or dad is with her, keeping her grounded and treating her like a normal kid. "They make me do chores, just like everybody else," Bradbery laughs. When she returned home for a visit with her fellow Mustangs, the experience was unlike any she'd had before. School

officials ushered her to a small room next to the gym as they prepared for her grand entry. "I remember hearing everybody screaming, 'Dan-ielle! Dan-ielle!' I thought, 'Oh my gosh. This is insane.'"

As she reflects, Bradbery remembers walking through the Cy Ranch halls feeling like no one other than her friends even knew her name. "I was just a regular student like everybody else, and now the whole school chants my name before I sing. It's weird how things fall into place - it's awesome," she laughs.

Like many teens dream, she recently attended her high school's homecoming football game and dance. "I was walking down to the student section at the football game and everybody was staring at me," Bradbery recalls. Other than her fellow students and fans asking for the occasional photo, Bradbery says her homecoming "wasn't too crazy."

She's now doing online schooling through Texas Tech to accommodate her travel schedule. "If there is time for college in the future, of course I'm going to take it. But for right now we're seeing where this road takes us."

Running with the Heart of Dixie

Back in the studio, Bradbery's first single "The Heart of Dixie" caught her attention immediately. Bradbery shares, "The first time I heard it, I thought it was really catchy and would be awesome for my first single."

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- Danielle Bradbery

Danielle Bradbery is looking forward to touring with country music sensations Brad Paisley and Chris Young

Taking the role of a storyteller in her first music video with her best friend Haley Haines and sister Monica, as her co-stars, she tried to picture herself in other people's shoes. "When I made the music video, I was singing to the camera while this whole other story was going on behind me." Bradbery says it was meaningful for her to have her friend and sister there with her. "That made me feel so much more comfortable," she adds. The track made it to People Country's "download this" section and the Taste of Country's top 10 video countdown.

This fall, she's excited to tour with Brad Paisley and Chris Young. When meeting Paisley's tour group, she felt really welcomed but hears they're known for their prank-playing. She plans to have few tricks of her own in her arsenal - just in case.

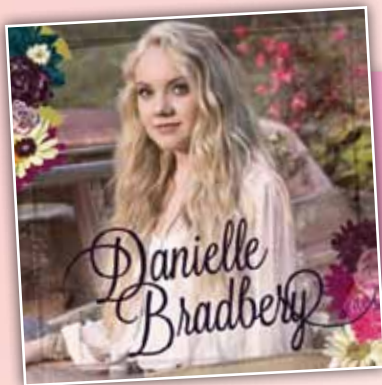
An Inside Look

Bradbery is all over social media - giving fans a taste of life as a "normal" starlet - from running into Kelly Clarkson at the studio, her choice of Starbucks drink, funny antics with her friends, or surprising 20,000 of Shelton's fans with a performance of her single. Bradbery even held a "live chat" session with Facebook followers where she answered a few questions from her raving fans.

Bradbery describes her self-titled album, set for release on November 25, to be "all the way country" with some surprises in store. "There's some amazing, fun songs that people my age will easily relate to," she reveals. "There are also powerful, inspirational ballads - my favorite."

The experiences, onstage and off, have proved to help her grow and mature as an artist as well as a person. "I sometimes honestly go back and watch some of the stuff I did. I've grown so much from where I was back then to where I am now. I've had to grow up a lot and fast."

Both her voice and her boldness have strengthened, and her goal is to see where this adventure will lead. "I am blessed with so many opportunities that I couldn't even imagine myself actually doing." Bradbery often tells other music hopefuls, "It's crazy what chances you can take; you never know how far you're going to get." **CFM**



Album Update!

Danielle Bradbery's album releases on November 25
Download it on iTunes!



Bradbery returns to Cy Ranch High School and is welcomed by her fellow Mustangs who chanted her name

Photo courtesy of Cy-Fair ISD



Photo by Trae Patton/NBC

Bradbery's victory marks her coach, Blake Shelton's, third team win in a row on *The Voice*



Photo courtesy of Cy-Fair ISD

Bradbery signs autographs for her fans at Cy Ranch High School



KENNAN BUCKNER was thrilled to interview Danielle Bradbery and turns up the radio every time "The Heart of Dixie" starts playing.