

# Reaching for the stars

## Centennial senior to audition for the prestigious Juilliard School of Music

BY LUKE LYONS  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

For Taylor West, singing is more than just something she excels at; it's a way to connect with the world around her.

"Music has always helped me express the way I feel without having to talk to people about it," the 17-year-old Centennial High School senior said. "If I'm feeling depressed or down, I can just sing a sad song and get my emotions working through the song. It's a way to get my stress out. "Singing lifts me up and makes me feel better."

West's singing helps others, too. "It's not only a way to express my feelings, but it's a treat for other people to listen to," she said.

After falling in love with music at age five, West has dedicated her life to singing and performing. Through talent, hard work and a strong support system around her, she has been granted a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to audition for the world-renown Juilliard School of Music in New York on March 3.

It's an opportunity she won't take lightly.

"I knew I'd regret turning down the audition for the rest of my life," she said. "I knew it would take a lot of work and time and nerves and anxiety, but I think it'll pay off in the long run."

The road to achieving her dream hasn't been an easy one, but West has persevered to become close to making it a reality.



COURTESY PHOTO

Taylor West will audition for The Juilliard School of Music on March 3 in New York.

SEE STARS, 9A

