

Transcript – Pilot: The ‘pint-sized powerhouse’ attends the Powerhouse

Hear from the ‘pint-sized powerhouse’ Sarah Grace, UH freshman, about her experience on NBC’s The Voice, why she chose to be a Coog and what she loves about H-town.

[Theme music begins]

Lauren: Welcome to the University of Houston Office of Admissions official CoogCast. Where we talk all things admissions, student life, paying for college, and much more. I’m your host, Lauren, a student here at UH.

For this episode, we have a very special guest with us today. She was dubbed the pint-sized powerhouse by Adam Levine and she is now attending the powerhouse: former Voice contestant, UH freshman, Sarah Grace. Welcome.

[Theme music fades out]

Sarah Grace: Hey! Thanks for having me.

Lauren: Our pleasure. Before we get into it, I just wanna say: one, congrats on making it so far on The Voice, and two, I love your voice. I’m so jealous of anyone who can sing cause its so, if you would, portable. My musical talent extends to like, playing the piano, and that is not the most portable of instruments at all.

Sarah Grace: I hear ya. I hear ya. I feel that. I started on guitar, and it was really, I mean it was fun and it was very painful. And so I played that for a while and I realized that piano was definitely my home as a musician. I started playing piano, but I also, I had this complex where I was like, ‘singing is not enough,’ because I was bored with singing, and so I was like, ‘I need to learn every instrument in the world.’ And so I learned ukelele and mandolin. Mandolin is just an excessive instrument. Why have eight strings, when you could just have four. It’s just...

Lauren: Yes!

Sarah Grace: It's not okay and I just don't understand. So.

Lauren: So can you tell us about your experience on The Voice and what was your favorite moment and what you learned from that experience?

Sarah Grace: Yeah, for sure. So, The Voice is such an adventure, I mean, I did not know what I was getting into. Even when I was first invited to audition, I said no, because, at the time, I didn't wanna be on TV. I especially did not want to do a reality competition show. *(laughs)* So at first, I didn't want to do the show just because of my own like personal, I guess, beliefs I had had. But then I reconsidered and I was like, it could be some pretty good audition experience, I guess I'll just, I'll give it a shot, why not. And so I did and I'm so glad I did because, holy cow, like the people I met, the things I learned about the industry, and I became a much better singer on that show. Like there were just so many things I learned and was exposed to on that show, and now I have a national network of friends, from not only my season, but seasons before and after mine. As well as musicians who have played on The Voice. So, the band on The Voice, I was really close to them because I am also a musician. And I got to set some pretty cool records on the show. I was the first ever contestant to play as well as trumpet. To do that as a 16-year-old girl and get to represent women and female musicians meant so much to me. I mean, it was incredible.

And I also learned a lot about myself through my experience on the show. I learned about how I handle pressure, which is, I really enjoy pressure. It is a huge motivator for me. And that is something that I've missed so much in this past year is like consequences. I want my actions to have consequences, whether good or bad. And they definitely did on that show. And so, I learned that I love that, that's a huge motivator for

me. And I also love singing. And I didn't really know that before I went on the show. I knew I loved singing but I didn't know that it is like, like music and writing songs and originality: those are like the core of my being. I just absolutely love creating and I love doing it with other people. So those are mainly my big learning points. I also learned so much about the music industry and this is how I ended up in my major, which is business, is I am really fascinated by how the music industry works. I don't really wanna be a part of it. I'm interested in law. My lawyers meant a lot to me and did a lot for me while I was on that show and beyond, as I was signing my record deal, my management deal, and publishing, licensing, just all of these contracts that get thrown at you as a starting musician and I had no one to ask questions to except for my lawyer. I could be that person and like protect another young artist like me from, I guess, the sharks of the industry, then that is something that I cannot pass up. So, it also, you know, sent me down my potential career path. I'm, I have no idea what's going to happen in the future, and I'm totally open to change, but I feel like that could be something for me, but yeah. Enough about the serious stuff. I guess a good fun story from the voice, is, and I don't know why I never use things as my fun fact when I'm introducing myself, cause as a freshman, I've done a lot of introductions the past two weeks. My, 'Hi, I'm Sarah Grace, I'm a freshman, I'm studying business and a fun fact about me is that I played water polo in middle school.' Which is very cool, but, my fun fact should be, 'I've done an escape room with Kelly Clarkson.'

Lauren: Oh, that is cool!

Sarah Grace: It was so fun! And it like, and I love her, I love her, I really do. The reason why we went to an escape room was because my team, Kelly wanted to do something just us, with no cameras, because the cameras like to follow you everywhere. But she wanted to do something with just us and so she chose an escape room, because you can't have cameras in an escape room, because the solutions to the escape room can't get out,

you know? So really smart move on her part. Super, super fun experience to go do that and something I'll never forget.

Lauren: That's so cool that you get to do something down to earth, like an escape room, with a celebrity. I'm from a small town, so the Hollywood life would definitely be a major culture shock. In fact, like Houston was a big enough culture shock for me. But Houston is your hometown, so what are some of your favorite places to go, or things to do that you recommend for everyone who isn't from Houston?

Sarah Grace: I love this question! Yeah, so, some of my favorite things in Houston. I have many, but I mean most of them are concert venues, because I spend so much time in them play or watching concerts, but I love, there's this restaurant in called The Lucky Duck, and it's just a wonderful place to go see live music. It's a listening room, so everyone is really respectful of the artist who's playing and you can actually hear what they're playing.

Lauren: Oh that sounds nice!

Sarah Grace: Yeah, right off the top of my head, that's one of my favorites. My favorite park is Memorial Park. Discovery Green is really great and its right in the middle of everything, so that, I mean, you know, that one always gets mentioned. But one that I just found this year is Memorial Park. It is so beautiful and there's the east everglades, I think is what it's called, and that's my favorite part of it. It's such a beautiful park. So, I love it there. I went to school downtown, so. Oh, a lot of the things I love to do have been closed down for the past year, so that's been disappointing.

Lauren: Oh, that is fair.

Sarah Grace: But I love to go see the Houston Symphony and, of course, any of the Broadway tours that come through are just definitely worth it.

Lauren: Houston is so big for bringing in all sorts of talent and like you said, symphonies, Broadways. My sister went to go see, like before everything locked down, she went to go see a ballet and she really enjoyed it. I just think that Houston is a great way to cultivate any type of your talent. *(laughs)* Cause they have so much, not only like opportunity, but resources and areas to cultivate that talent.

Sarah Grace: Absolutely, it is amazing. Even the arts museum and the science museum is great, too. And its free on Thursdays, so, go on Thursdays. Yeah.

Lauren: I really, yeah that's what everyone keeps telling me. "If you're gonna go to a museum, go on a Thursday, because it's more likely free!" And I'm like, 'okay!' And I'm a huge museum person, like I love history and I really wanna explore Houston's museums and things like that they do have a ton of different museums for all the interests, so I'm looking forward to that. And the friend that I made this past year, like virtually through a club, she's a really big museum geek, too, so I'm excited to go check that out and then I also really want to go back to the Houston Zoo. I've only gone once and I was like, I think I was a sophomore in high school, but I do want to mention that U of H students get to go into the Houston Zoo for free because that is where are...yeah, I think you know...that is where our mascot is, so I am looking forward to checking her out and seeing her again. My other question to you is why U of H? I saw your video on Instagram of all your college decisions and you had gotten into some other, like, top notch schools, so what was your reason for choosing UH?

Sarah Grace: UH was just the best fit for me. The programs at UH really stood out to me out of all the other schools. And then, of course, I love Houston and at the beginning of my college process I did not think at all that I wanted to stay here because I've been such a big adventurer in the past, but after missing out on a year of Houston, I was not ready to leave. The city really is great and the community that I have living in the city, I was not at all ready to leave it. I just feel like there's so much left for me to do in Houston. And, UH, like they were so great at responding to me the whole time that I was applying there and going through that process. Every time I had a question, I got a response immediately and it was actually a good response. Which is just my favorite. *(laughs)* Even if it hadn't been close to home and even if I was going to live on campus, it still would be my favorite, so I'm really really happy with my decision and I am very excited to be going to UH.

Lauren: Yeah were really excited that you chose us and that you'll be coming, and I totally feel you. I feel like whenever I was going through that college decision, it's not only very hectic, but you know, when schools respond and like respond appropriately it's the best because then you can kinda get your questions out of the way and everything and then, like you said, I definitely also understand that idea of not wanting to stay in your own city or your own... cause I have a university within my city as well and I was like I really wanna like go outside of my city. But then again, my city is a lot smaller than Houston, so, granted I don't have exactly a lot going on here, but I do, you know, everyone misses home, and I feel like with Houston being so big, like you said, a lot of people do attend Houston who are from Houston. But it's so big that there's always still something to do anyway. So, it definitely keeps you busy, it's definitely not just a college town, it has a lot going on, not only for professional stuff, but just for fun, too.

Sarah Grace: Yeah and I think it also came down to, I could go to the UH campus and look around. I didn't want to move across the country. There were so

many, I tried to do college visits for the other schools, but I think, you know, we just—my class applied to colleges in an awful year to do anything...

Lauren: That's true.

Sarah Grace: ...And so we couldn't go see any of these places that we were planning on uprooting our lives and moving to and so you didn't feel comfortable in that way.

Lauren: And a big thing for me was also staying in state for tuition reasons.
(laughs)

Sarah Grace: Yeah, yeah.

Lauren: But thank you so much for coming on. I do wanna give you a little bit of a shout out. Y'all can follow Sarah Grace on Insta @sarahgraceandthesoul and be sure to follow the Admissions page @UHadmissions for updates and reminders. For anyone out there who's interested in UH and would like to know more about us, you can find the link to sign up for a virtual tour or in person tour on our main page.

[Theme music picks up]

Lauren: Once again, thank you Sarah Grace and I'll see y'all in our next episode.

Sarah Grace: Thank you! Go Coogs!

[Theme music ends]