How does a senior from Mount Holyoke College who grew up in South Hadley Massachusetts become known in the country music industry? If you ask people passing by, 90% will tell you that you should move to Nashville, Tennessee. Nashville is the birthplace of what’s known as today’s country music and housed musicians such as Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Dolly Parton and more. History drapes Music City’s neon-lit streets bustling with competition.

But what if you don’t want to move? What if you’ve already got a job lined up in a different part of the country? What if you don’t want to be surrounded by thousands of people chasing the same exact dream?

With the rise of social media and the internet of things, I believe that success in the music industry doesn’t have to be as cookie-cutter as it has been.

I present Balance: The Making-of which explores the creation of my first extended play. I spent the first semester of my senior year writing every day, perfecting lyrics, honing in on catchy melodies and making connections with anybody who would email me back or jump on a phone call. I found the perfect studio, an airbnb for the days I was going to network in town, and I left mid-March to do something I’ve always dreamt of.

This talk will focus on the creation of my music, the issues that come with trying to make an impression from miles away as well as the country music scene’s treatment of women. I will also touch upon some of the exciting connections that have come from recording in Nashville and where I plan to take my music post-graduation.