

Teen's soaring soprano wins her chance to sing at Carnegie Hall

By **Samantha Maziarz-Christmann**

News Staff Reporter

Published: February 5, 2012, 12:00 AM

Updated: February 6, 2012, 8:30 AM

Advertisement

How do you get to Carnegie Hall?

For one Grand Island sophomore, it took practice.

Having a knockout voice didn't hurt.

Magdalyn Chauby auditioned for New York City's Golden Voices of America International Voice Competition and landed first place in the 13 to 15 age group.

That first-place prize grants her the opportunity to perform solo at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall Feb. 18.

"I have always dreamed of it, but I never thought it would be a reality," Magdalyn, who goes by Maggi, said.

Though Maggi has been singing around the house since she was able to make a peep, she began taking private voice lessons two years ago, when her eighth-grade chorus teacher referred her to Amy Teal of Amy Teal's Music Studio in Lewiston.

"Maggi's voice just soars," Teal said. "Very few singers can sing like that without years of training and practice. Maggi has a special talent."

A soprano, Maggi will sing George Gershwin's "Summertime," which shows off her vast vocal range. She can handle a low G below middle C to a high E above high C.

"She has this amazing ability to just float her voice with ease," Teal said. "She just loves to sing, and it shows."

In a lot of ways, Maggi is a typical high school student—though a very busy one.

She sometimes gets to school as early as 5 a.m. for jazz band rehearsals—she plays saxophone and piano—and stays as late as 7 p.m. doing run-throughs for her high school musical.

When she's not doing homework for one of her several honors classes, she's catching up on sleep or watching the occasional, beloved episode of "Glee."

"She has been amazingly humble through all of this and was embarrassed to even tell people about it because she doesn't want to brag," Teal said.

Like many other teenagers, she is never without music.

"I listen to a whole bunch of different stuff — show tunes, classical, rock, pop—anything I can get my hands on," Maggi said.

Most of all, Western New York's own Goo Goo Dolls have the key to her heart.

She was born on April 13, 1996—the day then-Mayor Anthony Masiello declared Goo Goo Dolls Day in the City of Buffalo.

"My dad had all their CDs, and we listened to them a lot," Maggi said. "They remind me of being little."

While her own musical tastes are eclectic, not all of her peers enjoy vegging out to Andrew Lloyd Webber.

And she wants to change that. "I think it's a struggle being a classical performer in modern times. But I hope I can make an impact and bring classical music back," Maggi said. "Classical is the root of all other music, and it's so under-appreciated today."

Ultimately, Maggi would like to study at the Juilliard School and maybe even end up on Broadway.

But until then, she is enjoying the ride.

"I just want her to soak up every minute of this. I keep saying to her, 'This is a big deal,' " Teal said. "Because someday she will look back and say, 'Really? I sang at Carnegie Hall when I was just 15?' "