



Oakville singer Raina Harten performing at last year's Burlington Ribfest at Spencer Smith Park.
| photo by Andy Yu

Young Oakville singer Raina Harten joins MiniPop Kids

The 10-year-old is excited about her budding career

by Julia Le
Oakville Beaver Staff

Don't be fooled by Raina Harten's quiet demeanor.

When the 10-year-old Oakville singer is behind a microphone, her mother Freedom Lee says she simply shines.

"At a very young age, Raina had a pull towards music," Lee shares.

Recalling how her daughter spontaneously got up at her friend's wedding at the age of six to sing for 80 people, she said, it came as such a surprise to her, considering her daughter barely spoke to the people at their table because she was so shy.

"She got the crowd on their feet wanting more," said Lee, describing how Raina was in her element.

That moment was one of the early signs of her daughter's passion for singing and performing, which has trickled into her after-school activities over the years. She plays piano, dances and has more recently started dabbling in musical theatre.

But the biggest stride she's made in her

budding career came recently, having been chosen as a member of MiniPop Kids.

Music compilation album company K-Tel International held an audition at Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto in late February to form the newest edition of the group, which features young performers aged 10-14 from across Canada.

Raina, who sang Adele's *Rumour Has It*, was chosen from more than 1,000 pre-teens who auditioned to be part of the group that creates an album based on today's pop hits and performs across Canada.

The Sunningdale Public School student said she's thrilled to be a part of the group she listened to growing up.

"I'm really excited to sing and dance with people who enjoy doing it too," she said, noting how her first live performance at last year's Burlington Ribfest was "so much fun."

Over the last year, Raina has also performed at the Oakville's tree lighting ceremony and RioCan Oakville Place. She's playing the lead role as Ariel in Oakville's Innovative Arts production of *The Little Mermaid* at the end of May. Raina will also appear on upcoming season of CHCH TV's *Tiny Talent Time* in September.

Her mother says the past year has been a whirlwind for them, but she's proud of Raina's accomplishments.

Raina said this is just the beginning of her career as an entertainer.

To hear Raina sing, visit her YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4mEeQ-9KDokPA6H3ph7wA.



Raina Harten

Jon Anderson performs at Oakville Centre Saturday

British musician Jon Anderson, best known as the former lead vocalist of progressive rock band Yes, will be performing at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts Saturday (April 19).

An Acoustic Evening with Jon Anderson begins at 8 p.m. and features hits from his

time with Yes, as well as solo career. His music spans more than 40 years.

Tickets cost \$73. They can be purchased by calling 905-815-2021 or visiting www.oakvillecentre.ca.

The Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts is located at 130 Navy St.



The Entertainers will perform at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, 124 Dorval Dr., on April 26 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. | photo courtesy of The Entertainers

The Entertainers take stage at Oakville high school April 26

A local barbershop chorus will take centre stage at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School stage April 26.

The Entertainers, comprised of Halton and Peel residents, will be presenting its annual spring show *The Entertainers in Concert* at 124 Dorval Dr. at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

General admission cost is \$25 or \$15 for children and students.

Tickets can be purchased in person at L'Atelier Grigorian, 210 Lakeshore Rd. E., by calling 905-336-5195.

Under the direction of Bruce Ott, the

chorus will sing a variety of music from Broadway hits like *Oklahoma*, *Edelweiss*, and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* to ballads like *Shenandoah*, John Denver's *Country Roads*, and *Wonderful World*.

The night also features special guests Doyles and Dunn and En Route.

Doyles and Dunn is a trio sharing Celtic, East Coast and Folk music while En Route is a quartet comprised of four musical leaders from the award-winning Circle of Harmony Chorus.

For more information, visit www.entertainers-harmony.org.

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