

By Jack Evans

March 14/99

The Intelligencer

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A career in songwriting and performance. That's the goal of 16-year-old Sarah Blaind, a talented young Grade 11 student at Quinte Secondary School.

Sarah has nothing against school. "I'm really enjoying it," she said. But she's not about to wait to start her dream career.

Already she has put two of her own compositions, both words and music, on a demo CD and has written enough other songs to complete a full CD which she hopes to cut within the next few weeks. "It takes about six weeks to make a CD," she said. But at least she has the material ready and continues to practise for the event.

Meanwhile, she continues to promote the venture by using the demo CD, which, she notes is "not for sale."

Music has always been in Sarah's home, she said, especially in connection with active church involvement at Parkdale Baptist. Her "Uncle Curly" was a special influence on her ability and interest in learning the guitar, mostly self-taught, although her Dad helped her too, she said.

Toward the end of public school she became interested in writing poetry, and then songs, especially religious ones, which she calls "Christian alternative," upbeat and wide-ranging in subject matter. The two demo songs she's cut are called "Forgive Me Lord," and "Vindicated."



Photo by Crombie McNeil

Sarah Blaind

Meanwhile, she has performed in coffee houses and church and school events with a voice which she calls a broad range, from alto to soprano.

Besides school classes, song writing and church activities, she has a part time job in a restaurant.

"I really want to make music and composition my career," she said. But her backup plan includes the course for sign language for deaf interpreter at George Brown College.

She doesn't read music and she hasn't taken any formal studies. "I'm not interested in taking music classes — I don't want to be distracted," she said.

She said she listens to a "lot of punk music" on the radio, "but I don't write the same kind of music I listen to," she added.

At school she especially enjoys history and social science topics. She also enjoys all kinds of visual arts — sketching, painting and sculpting.

Meanwhile her mother is her

main "agent" in promoting her works and she gets strong support generally from her parents and siblings, she said.

Sites set on music

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