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Rising Star Takes Centre Stage

By Kristyl Cahill

Langley teen Tiffany Desrosiers just finished performing with the Canadian Tenors and is now working on her first CD. While only 18 years old, Desrosiers is ready to take her singing talent as far as it will go.

On June 24, 2005 Langley teen Tiffany Desrosiers was given the chance of a lifetime. The 18-year-old aspiring, classical singer was chosen to perform onstage at the Central Heights Church in Abbotsford, with the Canadian Tenors.

The Canadian Tenors are a new, talented group of young, classical musicians who are taking the Pop-Opera (the infusion of pop with opera) world by storm, capturing the attention of classical music fans and critics all across North America.

"Performing with them was so much fun," said Desrosiers. "As I stood beside them I made sure to take in, and enjoy every minute of the experience. They are very talented, and I was honoured for the chance to sing with them."

Canadian Tenor Craig Ashton tells The Times that he was mesmerized by Desrosier's voice and was delighted to have her perform on stage with them. "She is the complete package as we say in the business," said Ashton. "I was fortunate enough to be given Tiffany's demo CD and am so impressed by this young artist. She is definitely a rising star, with the voice of an angel, and I think the world should look out for this young lady!"

It was Desrosiers' manager Su Bailey, who convinced the concert's organizers to take a chance on the newcomer and let her perform. Bailey is no stranger to raw talent, as she has worked closely with several well known musicians over the years and has toured with world renowned artists, like Matthew Good and KD Lange. Although Desrosiers was the only newcomer at the event, Bailey said she blew everyone away with her stage presence and beautiful voice.

"On a stage of professionals she conducted herself with professionalism and grace," said Bailey. "She's talented, extremely hard working and has everything it takes to be a successful singer."

Desrosiers' love for singing sparked at a very young age. When she was only two years old she would bellow out nursery rhymes in perfect key, impressing all of her family members. By the time she was eight, her grandmother, a singer herself, encouraged her to take vocal lessons to explore her talent. She signed up for the lessons not knowing that they'd lead her to her passion.

"At first I didn't take it too seriously but as I took more lessons and my voice strengthened I realized that it was something I'd really like to do."

Attending an N'SYNC concert confirmed her decision to make singing her career.

"The energy and atmosphere at the concert was really amazing," she said. "When they came up on stage and [the crowd] erupted in applause was really exciting."

Now she is 18 and already has several accomplishments under her belt. Desrosiers took first place in the Intermediate Voice category at the B.C. Festival of the Arts and has received several scholarships.

While most girls her age admire pop sensations Britney Spears and Jessica Simpson, Desrosiers has chosen classical singer Josh Groban as her musical icon. When Josh Groban first came out, my vocal coach thought that my natural voice suited his style of music so I began to listen to him," said Desrosiers.

"His technique is impeccable. He was awesome when he first came out and he keeps getting better and better. When I saw him live, I was completely infatuated by the power of his voice. I have such respect and admiration for him. He was the first singer I can remember that gave me chills."

She tells The Times that she would like to see more teens listening to classical music and hopes to be part of that influence. "I would definitely love to be involved in bridging the gap by helping youth to appreciate and understand classical music."

Between balancing her university classes at Trinity Western University, performing in concerts and the hours that she spends rehearsing; Desrosiers has very little time left over for a social life.

"Most of my spare time is dedicated to my music but I really don't mind," said Desrosiers. I know the industry is very competitive so I want to be prepared for that challenge."

Currently, she can be found most days in the studio working on her very first demo album that she aims to have finished this year. Once that is completed she plans to get out there and perform in as many venues as she can.

"I want everyone to know who I am and reach as many people as possible."