



# THE SKERRIES MUSIC STUDIO NEWSLETTER

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## Skerries Singers Score Again



**Muireann O'Donoghue (under 18's)**  
This promising young soprano was on a role this year, winning **1st prize** for classical singing, and **2nd prize** for popular singing at **Wesley**. She received **excellent marks and comments** at the **ESB Feis Ceoil** in Dublin.

**Ailish Kerr (Under 18's)** Had her first experience of competitive singing at both **Wesley** and **ESB Feis**, and received **good marks & comments** for both.



**Caoimhe McCarthy (Under 16's)**  
Although her first time in competition, Caoimhe was awarded a **Highly Commended Certificate** for voice, singing solo classical repertoire at **Newpark Music Festival**



**Sarah Murphy (Under 18s)** Was awarded a **Highly Commended Certificate** for her most convincing rendition of "**When you're Good to Mama**" from the musical **Chicago**, at the **Wesley Competition**



**Rachel McCarthy (Under 16's)**  
A confident performer. Rachel received **Good Marks and Comments** at **Wesley** and a **Commendation** for voice at the **ESB Feis Ceoil** in Dublin for classical singing.

**Sarah Ferguson (Under 16's)** with her sweet voice won **2nd prize** for classical and **2nd prize** for popular singing at **Wesley**. She also received a **Certificate of Commendation** for her classical performance at **Newpark Music Festival**.



**Claire O'Brien (Under 14's)** Is a young soprano of potential. Although this was her first time entering vocal competitions, she won **1st prize** for popular singing and **2nd prize** for classical singing at **Wesley**. She entered the **ESB Feis** and won the **silver medal** for voice. She received **very high marks and good comments** at the **Newpark Music Festival** in May.



**Meg McGloughlin (Under 14's)**  
This was Meg's first time in vocal competition. Her strong mature voice saw her awarded a **First Class Honours** for popular singing and a **First Class Honours** for classical singing at **Wesley**. She was **Highly Commended** for voice in the **ESB Feis Ceoil** and received **very high marks and good comments** at the **Newpark Music Festival** in May.



**Aebh Kelly (Under 12's)** Is a promising young singer who gave a lovely rendition of her classical song in the **ESB Feis Ceoil** Dublin where she was **commended for voice**.



**Niamh McGowan (Under 14's)**  
Performed very well and was awarded **commendation** for her musical theatre rendition of a song from **My Fair Lady** at the **Newpark Music Festival** in May.

**Caoimhe McGowan (Under 14's)** Gave a most uplifting & engaging performance of a song from **The Little Mermaid** which won her **1st prize** at the **Newpark Music Festival**. As part of her prize she got to sing at the **Prize winners Concert in the National Concert Hall** on 24th May 2009



## MUSIC EXAMS

Best wishes to all the Junior and Leaving Certificate Students who did their grinds here at the **Music Studio**.

Congratulations to **Emma Delemere, Niamh Harold, Sarah Ferguson, Grainne Corcoran, Rachel McCarthy and Ciara O'Rourke**, who all sat their exam practicals this year.

## MUSICAL THEATRE



Laura

**Laura Watson**, a student at the studio since April 2008, was recently successful in securing the **lead female** role of **Gabriella** in **High School Musical**, scheduled for performance in **Skerries Community College** in November 2009. Well done to other studio students, **Chris Kelly** and **Caoimhe McCarthy** on their casting in the same production.



Chris

Caoimhe



Congratulations to **Niamh & Caoimhe McGowan** who were successful in securing a coveted role as **Orphan Kate** in Spotlight Theatre's production of **Annie** which will be running in July 2009 at the **Olympia Theatre in Dublin**



**Adam McGealy** secured a place in the **chorus** of Festival Productions version of the **G & S Gondoliers** which will be showing in the **National Concert Hall** in August 2009

## GOOD VOCAL USE

1. Don't wear your voice out by singing or speaking for excessive amounts of time. No amateur singer should rehearse for longer than 60 minutes at a time. People who use their voice for long periods of time at work, should learn to speak with proper breath support and resonance. There should be no feeling of tension in the neck or throat.
2. Avoid singing continually in the extreme top or bottom of your vocal range. Choir Masters are better off using SAB music than forcing a competent Baritone or two to sing Tenor. Likewise, it does nothing but harm for woman to say "I've always sung Soprano" to continue in that section if really she is a contralto. Listen for vocal strain and fatigue, and don't be afraid to make needed adjustments.
3. Always, always do vocal warm-ups before singing. Exercises should begin with muscle stretches, and vocal exercises should proceed from less strenuous to more strenuous. Loud and high exercises are the most strenuous; softer and midrange exercises are the least strenuous. Warm up for an absolute minimum of 5 minutes (have 3—5 vocal exercises ready). 7—10 minutes is optimal.
4. Avoid shouting, screaming, loud laughter, hard coughing, sneezing and talking over loud environments (restaurants, motor noises, sports events.)
5. Don't sing with a sore throat. Avoid anything that causes vocal pain.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A SINGING STUDENT?

Auditions for September places are being held in JUNE 2009 Call Fiona Mullaney 086 36 93 812 or email [info@skerriesmusicstudio.com](mailto:info@skerriesmusicstudio.com)  
To arrange your audition time.