

Teen To Perform With Choir At Carnegie Hall

Destiny Hope Felder, a freshman at Severna Park High School, has been selected for the High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Destiny will perform as an Alto II on Saturday, with the Honors Performance Treble Choir.

Participation in the honors ensembles is limited to the highest-rated young performers from across the world. Destiny auditioned for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted after a review by the honors

selection board. Acceptance to the group is a direct result of the talent, dedication and achievements demonstrated in the performers' application and audition recording. Destiny was nominated last year by her Severna Park Middle School choir teacher, Arden Titus.

"I nominated Destiny for this opportunity because she is a great musician who took a serious interest in choral music during her time in my class," Titus said. "I thought she would benefit greatly from this program. I look to nominate students who are passionate about music and who would be interested in a more rigorous, in-depth musical experience. I also look for students who might be willing to take the brave step of traveling to a new place in order to pursue music."

Titus was nominated for the program multiple times but never had the experience of participating. Her friends from high school and college mentioned that it was a trip full of learning and forging new friendships.

"Traveling to a new place is one of the most invaluable experiences a student can get, and to get to perform while doing so is such an amazing privilege!" Titus said. "This program only takes the best and brightest, so even just working to audition is an achievement that every student can be proud of!"

Destiny has been singing since she was 3 years old but began taking it more seriously after her first show at Jones Elementary in partnership with Stage & Screen Studios. She had just moved from Leu-



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ven, Belgium, to Severna Park, Maryland, and was in fourth grade and 9 years old when she was cast to play Charlie in "Willy Wonka Jr." Now, having just turned 15 years old, she has studied music for six years and is a member of the Severna Park High School vocal ensemble under the direction of Sara Metcalfe.

She stays busy with various theater productions, volunteer work, Girl Scouts, endless craft projects and hanging out with her supportive friends and family — all while maintaining a

place on the school's honor roll.

"I'm incredibly humbled and honored to not only have been nominated by Ms. Titus but to have been actually accepted into the High School Honors Performance Series," Destiny said. "To perform in the very city that my maternal grandparents grew up and met in and where my great aunt Diane Hahn was a Radio City Hall Rockette for several years is mind-blowing. Although I wish my aunt and grandfather could enjoy the week with me, I know they'd be proud and will be watching in spirit. I can't wait to learn from master conductors, sing international songs, and meet new friends."

Destiny will join performers from all over the world — including Guam, the Virgin Islands, South Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan — to perform at Carnegie Hall, a venue that marks the pinnacle of musical achievement. The February 10 performance is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased through the Carnegie Hall box office.

"Being selected to the Honors Performance Series is something each finalist should be extremely proud of accomplishing," said Marion Gomez, music director for the Honors Performance Series. "We processed nearly 10,000 nominations this year and have selected the most talented student performers from around the world. Working with these conductors and performing at these renowned music halls is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that these musicians will never forget."