



The Overcomer

Despite a medical condition, young performer presses on to share rare singing talent

by Heidi Laurenzano

she got all excited and took me around to sing for everyone she knew."

Her singing and acting resume continues to grow, with increasingly challenging roles.

In March, she played the lead role in a Phantom of the Opera segment of Best of Vegas at Nipomo High School. This fall, she'll begin rehearsals with the Pacific Repertory Opera. She'll be the youngest cast member in the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center show.

Perhaps most impressive are the obstacles Rebecca has overcome to get to where she is now. A genetic disorder from birth has meant various hip and knee surgeries and daily medication.

"At times I've been ready to give up because it's so discouraging," Rebecca shares, with a steely resolve beyond her years. "But I never give up." Her family always builds her up and reminds her of her amazing talent.

Rebecca got her start singing with the Central Coast Children's Choir from 2004-2008 and currently takes voice and piano lessons from local music teacher Judith Dunmore. This summer, San Luis Obispo Blues baseball fans will hear Rebecca sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" at some of the team's home games at Sinsheimer Park.

The "A" student dreams about someday playing Christine Daae, the lead role in Phantom of the Opera, on Broadway or the lead role of Penny in Hairspray. ✨

Rebecca was born with an amazing operatic voice.

Rebecca McKinley, 15, played Christine Daae and Scott Fuss played the Phantom of the Opera in Best of Vegas this March at Nipomo High School.

High school sophomore Rebecca McKinley, has a promising future as a singer, musician and actress. She impresses people wherever she goes with the high notes she sings.

"I was in an airport in Missouri on layover and a restaurant manager there asked me to sing," says Rebecca. "When a high opera note came out,

