

Features

Davis walks red carpet; competes as ARTS finalist

■ BRITTANY PETERSON

Staff Reporter

It is noon in the suave Five-O-Three Cafe, a small crowd has gathered to enjoy breakfast and senior Kate Davis's soft playing on the bass. Her singing is gentle, with only drums and a piano to back her up. Everyone claps, then she quietly announces her break to enjoy her breakfast.

It has been a year of opportunity and fulfilled potential for Davis, senior. In February, she was selected to play in the 2009 Grammy Band traveling to Los Angeles for ten days to play at all of the events surrounding Grammy week. This included nominee parties and the Muscarea Person of the Year Tribute, which this year honored Neil Diamond.

"I was able to meet people with amazing musical gifts that I respected incredibly," Davis said.

The 30 high school students selected from all across the country walked the red carpet and played at the Grammy after party. Davis also had the chance to see people such as Herbie Hancock and The Jonas Brothers.

While Davis was in Los Angeles, she also met musicians such as trumpeter Terence Blanchard, as well as other students who are just as dedicated to music as she is.

The Grammy Band is a "musical milestone" according to Davis. It is a common bar set to be reached by young musicians, and she was encouraged by professionals such as pianist

Tom Grant and drummer Ron Steen, with whom she often plays.

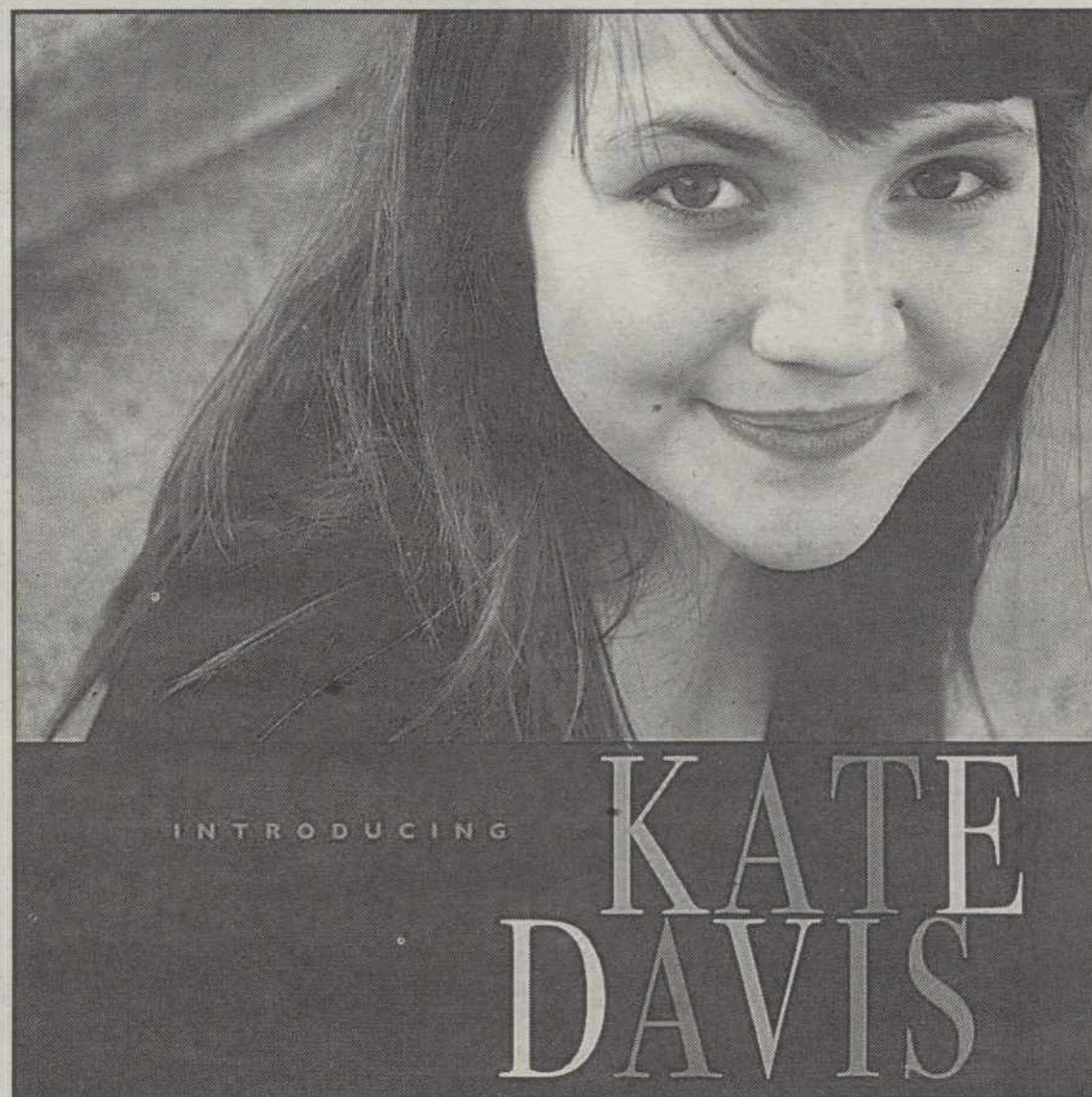
Aside from the Grammy Band, Davis was also one of 6,000 applicants countrywide to audition for the youngARTS program of the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, a scholarship competition. Only 140 students are chosen for specific skills of the arts, such as photography, art, music or choir. Davis sent in an audition video and was chosen to go to Miami, Fla. for a week where she attended clinics and classes with other outstanding musicians.

"It was a week of being inspired by incredibly talented kids," Davis said.

Thirty of those students were chosen to go to New

York at the end of March, and Davis was among them. The ARTS finalists receive scholarship money, which

the youngARTS, along with all the people Davis has had the opportunity to play with have created many



Kate Davis, senior, released her first self-titled CD "Introducing Kate Davis" in September. It features her playing with well-known musicians such as Tom Grant and Ron Steen.

Photo courtesy of Kate Davis

Olson leads Thespians to State as competitor for third straight year

■ LEXI WELP

Staff Reporter

Thespian co-president, National Merit finalist, straight A student, and a state Thespian finalist for the past three years, Caitlyn Olson, senior, still manages to keep a level head and tackle every opportunity with hard work and determination.

"No one works harder than Caitlyn, but really it is

co-president of the Thespian troupe with Nicholas Altishin, senior. "It's our job to facilitate the way the troupe communicates with each other," Olson said. Olson and Altishin's "facilitating" along with Murray's and many others paid off when the production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* was selected for state in April.

Olson is not in the



Caitlyn Olson, senior, takes a break from her hectic schedule during Rejuvenation Week. Olson qualified for State for the third year in a row, this year competing in solo and duo acting.

Photo by Calley Lathrop

that her work is so focused not just the time put into it," Jessica Murray, Thespian adviser, said. Murray has known Olson for the past three years and has watched her grow into the leader she is today. "Caitlyn has really grown into a phenomenal leader this year. It wasn't easy for her at first, but she has gained confidence in her own leadership skills," Murray said.

Olson is currently the

Picasso production, but will compete in solo and duo acting competitions at the convention. "I love going to conferences as a group," Olson said.

Olson has been acting since she was seven years old and loves the shared sense of pride she gains from being a Thespian. Acting is not the only place that Olson excels: she is taking three honors classes including AP Physics and English and Honors

Humanities. She was also recently named a National Merit Finalist.

"It is a really nice recognition of the academic work I have done," Olson said. "I want to study education; but still be involved with the theatre program," Olson said. Being a National Merit Finalist will help pay for college and help her accomplish her educational dream of becoming a teacher. She feels that it also acknowledges her character and all the hard work she has put into school.

"Caitlyn has so many excellent character traits. Her organization and attention to detail make her a great student, but my favorite of all her qualities is her sense of joy in the simple things," Murray said.

Even though Olson is in the National Honor Society and taking a challenging class load during her senior year, Olson is willing to do the work and still find time for her hobbies. With an average of about one hour of homework a night, Olson finds time for reading, and has been playing the piano for the past 10 years. She approaches it all with an upbeat and positive attitude.

"I am driven to get stuff done, but I am also really aware of the people around me," Olson said. "My senior year, I have had so much fun this year. I have learned a lot and made many friends."

could be up to \$10,000, as well as opportunities—most importantly many more offers to gig with other great musicians.

Davis balances school and everyday life with frequent absences. She goes to school only two periods a day, for CORE history and English, and is home at lunch. However, she manages her time well making sure to finish homework before she heads out to play during the night.

"The school has been really cool with all of this," Davis said, as with her trips to Miami, Fla. and Los Angeles she has missed a lot of school and will only miss more in the months to come.

Though she is busier now, she said it is a "better busy." She plays, whether gigging or practicing an average of four hours a day.

The Grammy Band and

openings for her, including helping her decide where she wants to go to school next year. The Manhattan School of Music has offered her a full scholarship and has waived the audition due to her participation in the Grammy Band. Davis also auditions at the Juilliard School of Music in March.

Earlier this year Davis released her first self-titled CD. It features well known musicians of Portland, including Randy Porter on piano, Davis Valdez on saxophone, Dick Titterington of trumpet, and Steen on drums. Already Davis has sold over 1,000 CD's. It also features Davis on voice and the violin, which is her beginning instrument.

As her accomplishments pile up; Davis manages to stay focused on what is important in life, her future and her music.

"Fuel" motivates students to alter their way of life

■ MAX HAYS

Staff Reporter

When Jim Hartmann, environmental science teacher, decided to show the documentary called "Fuel" he hoped that it would be an eye opener for students.

"I wanted students to be able to look at the situation and realize that this (the U.S. dependency on oil) is a big problem and then

try to take an initiative in doing something about it," Hartmann said.

Initially the film was only going to be shown to a select few science classes but Jesselle Hedman, senior, thought everyone should see it. Teachers were invited to bring there classes to the event.

Fuel

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