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## Jamie-Rose Guarrine of Peoria IWU Soprano Wins Italian Culture Society's Voice Competition

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Jamie-Rose Guarrine of Peoria

**IWU Soprano Wins Italian Culture Society's Voice Competition**

Local  
Chicago  
Central

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An Illinois Wesleyan University junior from Peoria has won the Italian Cultural Society's Leonora LiPuma Voice Competition.

Jamie-Rose Guarrine, an IWU vocal music education major and Peoria Notre Dame High School graduate, won the voice competition's female division Oct. 18 held at the Italian Cultural Society's Chicago headquarters.

Her prize is a \$500 scholarship earmarked for continuing her vocal education.

Guarrine competed with 25 male and female vocalists, ages 17-25.

As a result of her victory, Guarrine performed Nov. 8 at the Italian Cultural Society's banquet in Chicago.

To win the competition, Guarrine performed an Italian art song, Cangia, cangia tue voglie by the composer Fosolo, and an Italian aria, Stella del marinar, from the opera, La Gioconda, by Ponchielli.

Commenting on the vocal competition, Guarrine said: "This was the first time in my college career that my family got to hear me sing. They heard me when I was younger and when I was in high school.

"But this was a more professional competition," added Guarrine, a soprano, "and now they have heard me as a 20-year-old and heard how I'm growing."

The musical challenge of performing the Ponchielli aria, according to Guarrine, was extending her range, mastering quick diction, breathing, and phrasing in a piece with a fast tempo. The aria focuses on a prayer to the Virgin Mary by a maid-servant who is in love with a nobleman. The art song about unrequited love also presented Guarrine with breathing challenges from the musical standpoint.

Linda Farquharson, associate professor of voice and Guarrine's

(more)

## **IWU Student Wins Voice Competition/2**

instructor, said: "The colors of Jamie-Rose's voice have a rich quality that evoke empathy."

Last year, Guarrine took second place in a three-state music competition for sophomore female singers. She also serves as cathedral cantor at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria.

"I come from a musical family," Guarrine said. "My mother is a pianist and a church organist. My father is a tenor."

As a youngster, Guarrine participated in Peoria Civic Chorale talent pageants and frequently had parts in children's community theatre productions. Guarrine's interest in music, she said, was nurtured by attending music festivals and Illinois Music Educators Association programs, where she saw good role models and mentors. She also has worked with Ron Kieswetter, IWU class of 1989, in a chorus he conducted.

Guarrine's goal is to attend graduate school in performance and teach choir or voice at the collegiate level.

Jamie-Rose is the daughter of James and Antoinette Guarrine of 1704 W. Westaire St., Peoria.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.