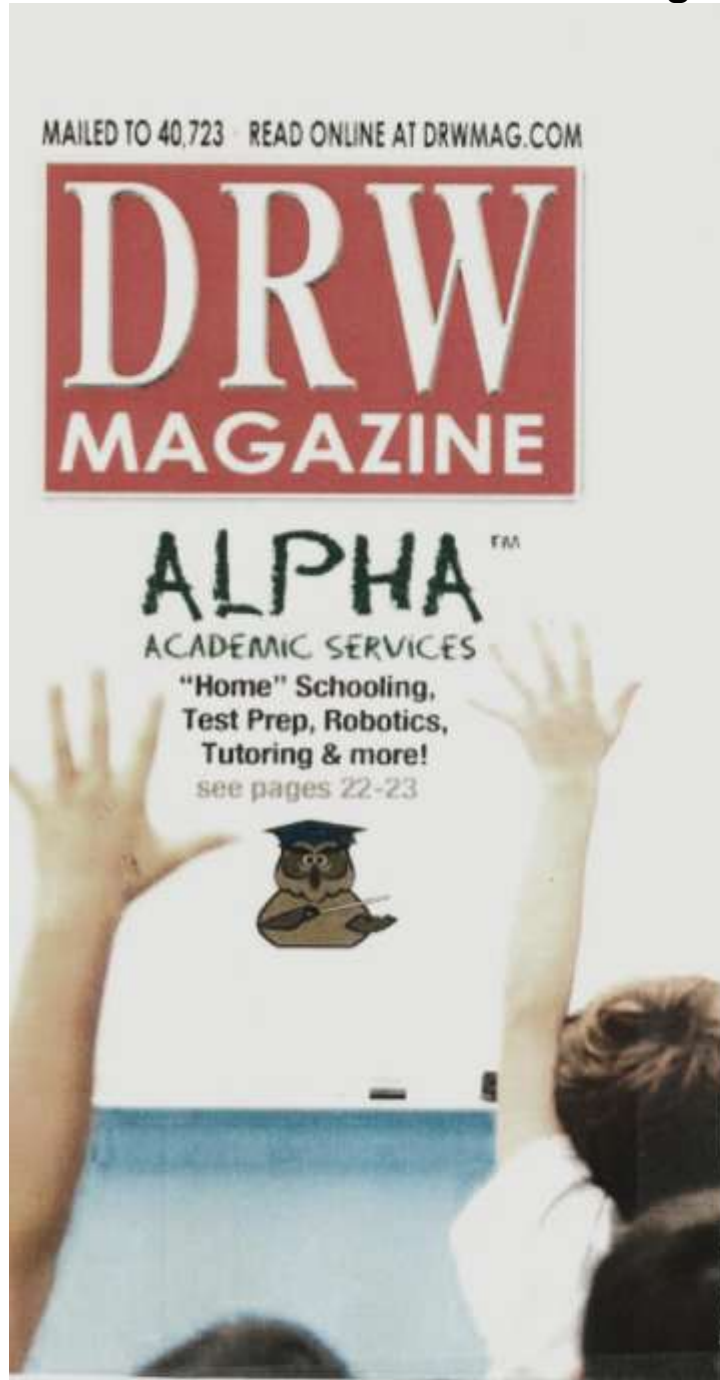


Nine-Year-Old Wins National Singing Competition



Angel's Voice

A 9-year-old U-School student wins a national competition



At just 9 years old, Sivan Ben David still can't believe she is the winner of a national singing competition. Despite her age, Sivan beat out more than 700 other applicants to be named the winner of the "Voice of an Angel" contest, an internet-based competition which drew

more than 700 applicants from around the country.

"My mouth dropped to the floor, I couldn't believe I had won!" said Sivan, a 4th grader at the University School in Davie.

Sivan found out she won on December 30th, after taking part in a 3-day long round for the finalists at the Shops of Sunset Place in Miami. Competing against a 31-year-old opera singer from NY, a 23-year-old from Miami and two teenagers, one from Kentucky and one from Fort Lauderdale, Sivan was the youngest finalist ever to take part in the competition, which was in its 5th season. Sivan belted out the tune "Hold My Hand" by Michael Jackson and Akon as her finale, which sealed the deal.

Sivan, who lives in Hollywood, has been singing since she was just 5 years old, when she tried out for a spot in the musical "The Wiz" at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts Summer Camp. Since it's been her passion ever since, and she's done different Broadway shows every summer. She also sings with the Rising Starz Music Academy and Sunations, a high energy show choir for students in grades 2-5 at the University School.

Sivan heard about the "Voice of an Angel" competition from the director of Tunes-For-Tots, a music community that she is a part of that performs to benefit children's charities. What appealed to Sivan and her mother, Teri DiGiulian, is that the competition goes beyond just singing – it tries to find the most inspirational singer in America, regardless of their faith. DiGiulian says on the opening night, the competition had spiritual leaders from many different faiths speak about unity and peace, and making the world a better place. "The theme is how can your voice be an instrument of peace throughout the world," she said.

Voice of an Angel premiered in 2007 as a competition for high schools in the South Florida community. It's grown from there to incorporate singers of all ages from around the nation. Contestants submit videos, and are selected by a panel of judges and fans watching worldwide. They are also encourage to take part in various community service projects and be "Angels In The Community."

As the season five winner, Sivan will have a busy year ahead of her. She is going to be doing a music video through "Voice of an Angel" as well as recording a song with all of the past winners. They'll also be touring with the group to help promote voters registration and to inspire patriotism. "It's like a dream come true," she said.

Visit www.voiceofanangel.tv for more.

BETH SCHOTT