



Freya Rhodes, the 10-year-old gifted performer from Broadstairs.
Picture by Deni Jirotko

Freya Rhodes: a musical prodigy

IF THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE YOUNG, THEN 10-YEAR-OLD FREYA RHODES POSSESSES IT IN SPADES. COMING FROM A MUSICAL FAMILY, FREYA STARTED PLAYING WHEN SHE WAS SIX AND NOW THIS HIGHLY ACCOMPLISHED AND GIFTED YOUNG PERFORMER FROM BROADSTAIRS HAS WON MORE ACCOLADES AND TROPHIES THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A CONDUCTOR'S BATON AT.

Not content with winning four first places at the Kent Competitive Music Festival in November last year, Freya swept the board at the recent Thanet Music and Drama Festival, picking up no fewer than five solo awards, the trophy for Best Musician in the Pianoforte Section and a further five awards with her musical partner, 13 year old Dane Court pupil Robert Evans, including 1st place and a cup for Vocal Solo with Accompaniment in the Vocal Section.

Hot on the heels of this success, Freya has been invited to audition for a place at the

Kent Music Academy for musically gifted children and is due to join the Kent County Junior Choir, as the youngest member, at Sutton Valance School, for a residential Easter course and Benenden School for a summer course. Together with Robert, she will also be undertaking a musical tour of Kent for charity in the autumn, when the duo will become available to perform at weddings and christenings. In addition to all of this, Freya plans to enter the Tipperary International Song of Peace Contest early next year and is currently searching for a

composer to write and record a song with her for this contest.

Totally unfazed by her hectic schedule, this delightfully poised and engaging young musician also finds time for a full and happy school life at St Lawrence College Junior School, as well as numerous hobbies including cooking, gardening, ice-skating, walking her dog Taro on the beach close to her home, and riding her beloved pony, Saffron. ■

Words and picture: Deni Jirotko