

Prize-winner Freya looks forward to a busy year



Freya Rhodes with Andrew Larner, music lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University

» Award winning musician Freya Rhodes, 11, has a busy year ahead with a countywide tour of churches during which she will sing sacred music.

Freya, who won five first places at last year's Kent Music Festival, together with the Pye cup for her piano recital, has already sung *Serenity - The Song of Peace Within Me* at St Anne's Church in Cliftonville and the song is her entry in the Tipperary Song of Peace contest.

It has been written for her by composer Andrew Larner, a lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University and former head of music at Sir Roger Manwood's School, Sandwich. Andrew Gower, director of the university's music department at the Broadstairs campus, has agreed to provide an engineer and recording

studio for this enterprise. Freya, who goes to Clarendon House Grammar School, Ramsgate, was also awarded Kent Festival junior pianist of the year 2009 by adjudicator William Fong, professor at the Royal Academy of Music and head of keyboard at the Purcell School.

He described her performance as 'vivid, sensitive, graceful and lyrical' and said she has a great future. Freya was presented with a Canterbury Arts Council bursary of £75 and has been congratulated on Classic FM by presenter Simon Bates. Earlier this year she won the title Best Musician 2009 at the Thanet Music and Drama Festival.

She has entered four separate categories of this year's Thanet festival in March including instrumental (harp and flute), piano, vocal and choral and speech and drama.