

Truro student set to shine for last time at music fest



Rachel O'Brien, a senior student at Cobequid Educational Centre, is bidding farewell to Truro Music Festival by performing in three classes; the romantic, modern and junior concert group this week.

PHOTO BY RANDI BEERS SPECIAL TO THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

Published on April 12, 2013

Staff ~ The Truro Daily News 

'My role models were always the older people who played piano when I was a kid'

Topics : [Mount Allison University](#) , [Marigold Cultural Centre](#) , [Sackville](#)

TRURO – At age 18, Rachel O'Brien is a veteran of the Truro Music Festival, with this year marking her 11th – and last – year as a participant.

"I was first involved in music fest when I was seven years old," said O'Brien. "It was terrifying. There were like, 20 kids in my class and I didn't even win in my class.

"I was so devastated."

But that early disappointment didn't stop her from coming back. She placed first the next year in the jazz and blues class and continued to participate in the festival.

"It was very exciting for me as an eight-year-old, as you can imagine," she said. "I came back almost every year, unless I was busy with something else."

The music festival is back for its 91st year and is starting the second leg of its program Monday, an especially important year for O'Brien.

"This year's music fest is exciting because I'm playing in more classes this year. I'm playing in three – romantic, modern and junior concert group," she said. "I'm the only one in my class for two of the three, so it's not like placing is as important. I just get to perform."

She will be performing in the romantic piano solo class starting Monday night at the Marigold Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

Apart from music fest, O'Brien is keeping busy this spring by playing piano in the pit band for her high school's production of Grease and by playing clarinet in her school band.

This year is momentous for O'Brien for another reason as well. She will be graduating high school at the end of June and moving on to Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. to study piano. From there, she isn't sure what's next.

"I'm undecided what I'm going to do with my degree as of now," said the young musician. "It'd be an achievement just to graduate with that degree."

She just found out she was accepted to Mount Allison University two weeks ago.

"I was relieved. I didn't really have a plan B - just to go to the Mount and try again."

The Truro Music Festival junior and senior piano classes run from April 15 to 17.

For more information, visit truromusicfestival.ca