

LIFE

By DANETTE DOOLEY

danette@nl.rogers.com

SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM

Like a trusted friend, Julia Bowdring's violin has been with her through thick and thin. She's taken it on performances to the United States, England, Ireland, Isle of Man, throughout this province and across the country.

On April 9, the 20-year-old tucked her instrument under her chin and performed during the Lady Cove Women's Choir concert at the CLB Armoury in St. John's.

That same evening, the choir (named after the community of Lady Cove in Trinity Bay) presented Bowdring with a \$1,000 bursary.

The money will help fund the traditional fiddler's trip to the University of Limerick in Ireland this summer where she'll attend the Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance.

A pianist, violinist and fiddler, Bowdring says she'll study both piano and fiddle during the two-week program.

Bowdring is a third-year music student at Memorial University.

She teaches fiddle and piano and plays fiddle and keyboard for the local folk-rock band At Ship's End.

She was the concert master of the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra for three years. She currently performs with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra.

Bowdring says her parents, Glenda Ellsworth and Paul Bowdring, have always encouraged her to pursue her music.

Whether performing on George Street, at Memorial University's D.F. Cook Recital Hall or in her family's living room, Bowdring is happiest in front of an audience.

"Every performance motivates me to practice to learn new music and to pass it along to my audience," she says.

telegram@thetelegram.com

What is your full name?

Julia Anne Bowdring.

Where and when were you born?

September 1990 in St. John's.

Where is home today?

St. John's.

What is your greatest indulgence?

"Cougar Town." I don't know what it is about that show but I love it. It's just so funny. I have all of the episodes on my computer and I've probably watched every episode about 10 times.

What was one act of rebellion you committed as a youth?

I was a pretty good kid and teenager. The only thing I can think of was I ate a tube of toothpaste once. And I guess I'm still a youth so I still have time to rebel (laughs).

What was your favourite year?

2008. It was the first year I went outside the country. I went to New York and Ireland and England. It opened my eyes to the world and made me realize how much I want to travel.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

To find the thing that I really enjoy doing — which is music and specifically traditional music — at such a young age.

What is your greatest regret?

I don't have any huge regrets. I feel like everything happens for a reason and if one door closes another opens.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I have a terrible habit of procrastinating. I start assignments three days before they are due.

What was the most vivid dream you've ever had?

I was seven or eight years old. I was on my dad's shoulders and we were walking down



the beach. All of a sudden there was a big forest and a huge wolf came out with huge fangs. He chased us. It's the one dream I've never been able to forget.

What's your pet peeve?

The sound of bananas being chewed. And slurping.

What is your greatest fear?

Fangs and vampires. I used to put garlic at my windows and my bedroom door when I was little.

What are you reading right now?

"Alligator" by Lisa Moore.

What is your personal motto?

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

If you were premier of the province, what's one thing you'd try to do?

I would quadruple the money that goes into the arts.

Do you have any hidden talents?

I love cooking and I have a special flair for cheesecake.

Who inspires you?

My students. Their love of music is so innocent.

I'm also inspired by great performers like James Ehnes (violin player) and Angela Hewitt. She's a great piano player. And traditional performers like Christina Smith, Graham Wells and Frank Maher. And my music professor Dr. Maureen Volk and my other professors.

Who would you like to be stuck in an elevator with?

My best friend Nisreen Magrabi. She is from Libya. She moved here when we were in Grade 9. We are able to make any situation hilarious and I think she'd help me through that difficult situation.

Which person, alive or dead, would you like to have lunch with?

J.S. Bach. His music is my favourite to play on piano and I play his violin music as well. His life was quite difficult and that's really apparent in his music. I think it would help me if I could talk to him about his life.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

I would start a music school for traditional music in the province. There are efforts going into preserving our music, but I don't think enough is going towards getting youth to play it. I'd also travel the world and learn traditional music of other cultures.



Julia Bowdring

Julia Bowdring. — Photo by Danette Dooley/Special to The Telegram