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Burr Ridge's Kelsey Pettrone selected as "Broadway's Best"



By Audra Sybert May 6 at 3:26 p.m.



FVR Student Kelsey Pettrone of Burr Ridge.

After six weeks of rehearsal, FVR Instructor Michael Sobie and six local academy singers are proud to showcase their talents in the fundraising performances of Broadway's Best on the Pheasant Run Mainstage, with all proceeds directly benefitting the Fox Valley Rep Performing Arts Academy.

FVR Performing Arts Academy's top youth vocalists have come together to learn and present an evening of the most memorable songs in Broadway's history including music from: Andrew Lloyd Webber, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Kander & Ebb and more. Student vocalists include: Ellie Clare (15) of West Chicago, Kayla Nicosia (14) of Elgin, Kelsey Pettrone (12) of Burr Ridge, Ava Raddatz (14) of Westchester, Simran Sachdav (14) of Geneva, and Madysen Simanonis (13) of Winfield. This fundraising performance will take place on the Pheasant Run Mainstage in St. Charles, IL

"I am truly ecstatic to have been selected alongside five other top performers in the area," says performer Kelsey Pettrone of Burr Ridge. "I have loved working with Director Michael Sobie, who has such positive energy and so much to teach us."

Director Michael Sobie has toured nationally and internationally with *Aida*, *Altar Boyz*, *Wicked*, *Xanadu* and *Les Miserables*. He has conducted and accompanied dozens of theatrical productions for community, regional, and educational theatres. His Chicago production *Urinetown* (Mercury Theatre) garnered him an After Dark Award and Jeff nomination for his music direction.

"This showcase brings together six wonderfully talented youth in a concert/cabaret featuring theatre repertoire spanning generations," says Sobie. "From *Cinderella* to *Sound of Music*, *Aida* to *Wicked*, this entertaining evening is sure to please musical theatre fans of all ages, blending traditional and modern classics!"

The FVR Performing Arts Academy is a non-profit organization and features some of the Chicago area's most respected teachers, directors, actors and musicians. It is home to over 1,000 local youth students and offers the most extensive curriculum in the Fox Valley

area: classes, camps, workshops, youth ensemble productions, and internship/apprenticeship programs. Since 2006, the Performing Arts Academy has had over 2,000 student enrollments, over 100 Youth Ensemble performances, used over 600 costumes, and provided over 50 student scholarships.

Broadway's Best performances are May 20 through 22, 2011; Friday and Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 2pm. Tickets are \$12-\$15, with all ticket proceeds benefitting the Academy. For tickets and information, visit www.foxvalleyrep.org or 630-584-6342. Pheasant Run Resort is located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and is sponsored in part by the Kane County Chronicle.