

Bussandri to perform in singing/songwriting contest

By Martin C. Barry

Westmount-born Kristen Bussandri will be the featured performer during Acoustic Nights Montreal, a teen songwriting competition in which young aspiring talent from several Westmount schools have also been invited to take part. According to its founder, Melina Soochan, the June 25 competition is based on a concept similar in some ways to *American Idol*, although it goes beyond that.

“They actually have to perform a song that they wrote, and they have to do it either by themselves or with an accompanist, and without using [pre-recorded] backing tracks,” she said in an interview with the *Independent*. “It’s a focus on real talent and song-writing skills.”

The performers will be judged by four judges, who are active professionals in the Montreal music scene, and on four criteria: song structure, lyrics, performance and stage presence. Originality will also be considered.

The judges will assign marks to the performers and comment out loud in front of a live audience. There will be first, second and third place winners, as well as a people’s choice winner to be determined by the audience in a vote.

Among the schools invited to take part are The Study, St. George’s, ECS and Selwyn House.



Westmount-born Kristen Bussandri (pictured here May 18 at the Flower Conservatory) will perform June 25 during Acoustic Nights Montreal.

Prizes include a free music video, a recording session, a professional photo shoot and the opening spot at the gala event being held in late July.

The organization has issued a call to singer-songwriters, English or French, between the ages of 13 and 17, who write their own music to enter the contest. Online applications are being accepted before June 3 at : www.acousticnightsmontreal.com/competition.

(Reprint)