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Fremont teen advances to national fine arts competition

Submitted story

DAYTON -- Fremont resident Ashleigh Kosanka, 14, was among the more than 600 youths, ages 12 to 18, who competed in The General Assembly of God: Ohio Youth Ministries' Fine Arts competition March 13 in Dayton.

Ashleigh, daughter of Jake and Nanci Kosanka and an eighth-grader at the Fremont Middle School, competed in the string solo category playing, "I can only imagine!" on the hammered dulcimer.

The competition was broken into seven main divisions which included more than 50 categories. Divisions were art, communication, drama, exhibition, instrumental, vocal and writing.

"This was my first time attending Fine Arts," Kosanka said. "It was amazing. It was so exciting to be at the Dayton Convention Center with so many other teens, and I enjoyed seeing all of the performances."

Kosanka has been taking lessons from her aunt, Tracie Henson, of Oak Harbor, for more than four years. Months ago her dulcimer lessons shifted to specifically prepare for the district competition.

Kosanka received a rating of "superior with invitation" by all three judges and qualified her to attend the national competition in Orlando, Fla. Not only did Kosanka receive an invitation to nationals, she also placed first in the string solo category and received the merit award at the closing ceremonies. Pastor Terry Hunt from Tri-County Assembly of God, Bluffton, was among the 13 supporters who traveled to Dayton to provide encouragement for Kosanka.

"This is the first time our church has had a teen involved in the competition. We are so proud of Ashleigh. We definitely are going with her to Fine Arts in Florida this August. My hope is to take all of our youth to the competition to support her. The fine arts competition is so important because it gives our youth an opportunity to discover and develop their ministry gifts and an opportunity to worship God with those gifts," Hunt said.

For information on Fine Arts visit <http://faf.ag.org/>.



In the hall at the Dayton Convention Center, Ashleigh Kosanka warms up just before her performance. (Submitted photo)