



Former Valley girl performs at UN Peace Convention today

When the United Nations Peace Convention convened during in Geneva, Switzerland today (August 3), it was of special interest to many back here in Pleasant Valley. One of their own, Christy Crowl, was a featured artist, performing at the opening ceremony and concert for the Fete d' Excellence.

She was invited by Wilda Spalding, Fete founder and president of the World Wins Corporation, who sponsored this event after hearing her perform at the Fete d' Excellence's Festival of Lights.

Christy has been a gifted pianist since the age of three when she began her musical training. She grew up in the Boonsboro and Rohrersville areas, attended the schools and graduated from Boonsboro High School in 1989.

"I always knew without a question that music would be the main theme of my life," she says. "It never occurred to me to consider anything else."

Christy received many awards in various musical competitions. While still in high school, she spent part of a summer studying and performing at Tanglewood, Massachusetts. In 1989, her musical talent helped her to be the first runner-up in the Miss Washington County pageant.

Christy also shared her talents with her church, Brownsville Church of the Brethren, singing in the choirs and playing for services.

She appeared at the age of 5 as "Annie" in a production of that musical at the Maryland Theater, in Hagerstown, and at age 12 she was the keyboardist for the "Friends 'n' Spirit," a musical group her father, Dr. Vaughn Crowl, helped to form and direct. She later became the group's pianist.

She is now the musical director for the Temple Shalom of the Arts in Los Angeles. She has received two music degrees and is now pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Southern California. As a Van Lear Scholarship recipient, she is working in the fields of piano and film scoring.

Along with being a featured artist with several symphony orchestras, she has toured internationally as principal pianist and slide guitarist for the Warner Bros. "Bugs Bunny on Broadway" show.

During the concert in Geneva, Christy performed solo piano works from Chopin and Debussy and accompanied her equally talented husband, Scott Dicken, a baritone, as he sang works by Berstein, R. Vaughn Williams, and Debussy. Together the couple also performed contemporary songs from a CD entitled "Christy Crowl," just released, which has been written and produced by Christy and Scott.

While there, Christy also spoke before the UN Roundtable which focused on "The Art of Human Rights." She discussed the role of arts and artists in the promotion of human values. The roundtable was made up of diplomats from various countries.

Christy feels very strongly that music should be an important part of the educational program, beginning at the primary level. "It has been proven that having music education at this level improves academic performance and behavior," she says. She is working with Ms. Spalding, who is a Head of Delegation for a UN Working Group, to establish a "Virtual Academy, where kids from all over can receive the education of the arts that they are so sorely lacking."



Christy Crowl

Although Christy is pursuing her career in California, she has not forgotten her friends and family back home. In a conversation with her last week before she went abroad, she was excited as she looked forward to this experience. "I feel everything is coming together now. The idea of going to the UN in Geneva is amazing, and I believe this is the first step to

many things I want to accomplish for kids."

She quickly expresses her thanks for all the blessings that have come her way through out her life here in the valley.

Pleasant Valley is proud of the accomplishments of one of their own, and we wish Christy all the best in her career.