

Girl turns belief in St. Nick into musical hit

Published: Saturday, December 12, 2009

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DOUGLASSVILLE — While some parents may dread the moment when their children question the existence of Santa Claus and the questions it brings, one township girl is inspiring everyone to believe again.



"Some people tell me how Santa Claus isn't really real, but he makes the spirit of Christmas real," said Katie Frederick, 9, a "December baby."

"He is my inspiration. I believe that Santa is a very giving person, and he is in the spirit of Christmas."

Katie, along with her father Vic Frederick, wrote a Christmas song about the jolly old elf in 2008 after some of Katie's friends began telling her they no longer believed in him.

"She's at that age where kids are starting to not believe in Santa," said Frederick about his daughter, one of three children he and his wife, Joni, are raising.

"She desperately wants to believe," said Joni Frederick

"She's 8, and I'm downstairs playing on the keyboard," described Victor Frederick of the day Katie first came up with the idea. Frederick has been a musician all his life, but works a day job as a district judge in Oley. He is a former Amity police officer.

"She comes in with a scrap of paper with four little words on it and she said 'I want to write a song and I wondered if you could help me.'"

Frederick said his entire family is musical, and he and his wife, a singer, often perform at weddings.

Katie began to sing the song, and Frederick realized the opening verse

and melody were really good. "The first phrase and words she sang we kept," and they worked on perfecting the rest which eventually turned into their song "I Believe."

"A little girl believes in Santa and her friends don't want her to," said Frederick explaining the song. "She wants her friends to understand the importance of Christmas."

Frederick said he got his whole family to perform the song for family and friends that Christmas. "We're as close to the Partridge family as you can get," he said, laughing. They were encouraged when everyone who heard it told him how good it was.

So Frederick saved up money for a year to buy recording equipment, and he and Katie put together a demo this year, posting it on YouTube. Victor Frederick composed and performed all the music and his daughter sings.

As of Thursday evening, the video had already been listened to more than 700 times and Katie has been asked to appear on Y102 FM in Reading on Tuesday. She will also be singing the song, along with a choir of several friends at Birdsboro's tree lighting on Saturday, which she was invited to do after some of the borough's parks and recreation employees heard it.

Katie, who said she wasn't at all nervous about singing in front of a live audience, said she loves music and is currently playing the flute. She is also in her first year of cantoring at her church.

When asked if the song was a sign of her hope for a music career, she humbly said, "Probably not, this might be the only song I'm ever gonna write."

As for where the song goes and where it takes her, Katie said her only hope was that it makes those who hear it "happy to hear it, and makes a lot of people believe in the Spirit of Christmas."

To listen to Katie's song on youtube, visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8V__hF6wdg