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## Music Maven

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By Earl Gray

“For as long as I can remember, I’ve wanted to get on stage and perform music. I can’t imagine myself doing anything else.” That’s the quote on the bio page of Carly Gibson’s website. That helps explain what she was doing fiddling around with a violin at the age of 3. To say Carly was born with music on her mind is like saying Toyota is the new car of choice among street racers – it’s a no brainer. According to her mother, Teresa Powell, “Carly was going to concerts in the womb.” Powell is a member of the Three Weird Sisters, a band that has an international following playing a style of music called filk. Carly’s father and older brother are also musicians. I wouldn’t be surprised in one of her five cats could play chopsticks on the piano.

After that early foray with the violin, Carly was taking piano lessons at the age of 8, but it was when she was 11 years old that music started to become more than just a pastime. Carly started taking guitar lessons at the Gwinnett School of Music, and the pastime became the passion. “I knew I wanted to do this as a career,” Carly said. By age 15 Carly was writing music and playing in the rock band Jaded June. She has been primarily a solo artist since the group disbanded. Last year, Carly got the kind of



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break a young artist needs.

Nothing says music like the word "GRAMMY." For over fifty years the GRAMMY Award has been the symbol of excellence for established and new artists alike. Each summer, the GRAMMY Foundation sponsors a camp in Los Angeles for aspiring young talent. Last year, Carly auditioned for GRAMMY Camp by submitting a video tape to the Foundation. She was hoping to be recognized for her vocals and songwriting as well as for her guitar playing. Only about 80 participants from across the country are selected for the camp - she barely missed the cut. Disappointed, but not despondent, Carly kept working at her trade.

In June of last year, a surprise 17th birthday party was thrown for Carly. The big surprise was the bombshell her mother had for her; The GRAMMY Foundation had called, and due to one person dropping out, Carly was now in. "It was surreal," Carly said of the experience. "You're playing music the entire time, and the friendships you make are amazing. It was real cool."

Among the friends she met was Shane Fogerty, son of John Fogerty of Creedence Clearwater Revival fame. The nine day camp teaches young artists everything about the music business, from honing skills to working with record companies.

When this year rolled around Carly was quick to submit another tape to the GRAMMY Foundation. This time she was accepted outright. Carly was especially excited because last year she took part in the guitar playing program, and now she was being invited to participate as a singer/songwriter.

Carly is currently working on a three song EP that should be out in a few months. The venture is being produced by former Kansas keyboardist Greg Robert. The EP is titled "Heavy Water" after the title track. "As I get older I realize how much harder being an adult is, and that's what the song is about."

Heady stuff for a 17 year old.

More information can be found on Carly at [carlygibson.net](http://carlygibson.net), and for more information on GRAMMY Camp go to [grammyfoundation.com](http://grammyfoundation.com).

Earl Gray is a freelance writer. Send comments & suggestions to [etg\\_3@hotmail.com](mailto:etg_3@hotmail.com).

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