

■ CAPE COD ACADEMY ■



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Sarah Van Sciver uses her musical abilities to perform at community fundraisers and interfaith events, or just to share beauty with those around her. She also excels academically, and would like to combine music and math in a double major at college.

Sarah Van Sciver

Advice to freshmen: "Don't be afraid to try things that you never thought you'd be good at."

By **CAROLYN MARKOWSKY**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether Sarah Van Sciver's self-described "tiny hands" are stretching out to harp strings or piano keys or even her guitar, it's the reach itself, coupled with her passion for music, that defines most of her endeavors. Reaching out, in fact, is what Sarah is all about.

Lawrence Brown, humanities teacher at Cape Cod Academy, runs the coffeehouses there that benefit many groups serving the underprivileged, including the homeless. Sarah has been a generous participant in these since seventh grade, he says, always using her musical talents.

"There is a deep humanity that runs in the family," Brown says.

Sarah credits her parents for modeling their hands-on volunteer work and their own love of the arts. She also sings and plays the harp professionally. Simply for the joy of it, she travels from Marstons Mills to Boston once a week for practice with the Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus, of which she is a member.

Sarah is most proud of her academic excellence and says she feels lucky to be at Cape Cod Academy, which has allowed that to blossom.

"As a result of going to my school I can do a huge variety of things, more so than at a school teaching to a test," she says.

Arthur "Kerry" Brown, her

college adviser, calls Sarah's "selfless spirit and generous nature" huge components in all that she does. Even after the school day is over, Sarah can often be found in the Commons area playing the piano for anyone who wants to listen.

"In simple, understated ways she shares with others, and the delight seems to be all hers," Kerry Brown says.

Not only does she have superb academic skills (including a perfect 800 score on the math SAT), she balances them with her involvement in sports. Although she is not the top runner, she was selected to be captain of the cross-country team because of her interpersonal skills and team spirit.

From a young age Sarah has been seeking challenges in many places. She was selected in fifth grade to be in the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth program. And she enjoys her part-time job busing tables at The Paddock restaurant. The Boston Globe awarded Sarah a silver key in the Scholastic Art Competition for a weaving she did on a loom. She is among 15,000 National Merit Scholarship Finalists, out of about 3.2 million students graduating nationwide this year.

Although Sarah hasn't chosen a college yet, she knows she wants to double-major in math and music.

"My love for math comes from music and vice versa. All my questions about music were math-based."