

# In spreading joy with song, a bridge across age groups

by Mark Lord  
qboro contributor

They're young, talented and ready to give back!

A newly formed musical group, Joy Through Music, is set to make its debut later this month, at a benefit for the Bay Terrace Garden Jewish Center.

From there, it's on to senior centers, hospitals and anywhere else their music might be appreciated.

The group is the brainchild of Isabel Robin, a 16-year-old Bayside resident, who attends Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and the Performing Arts in Manhattan. She approached a few of her fellow students about putting their shared love of singing to practical use ... and thus, the group was born.

A performer since early childhood, Robin has been a mainstay at Theatre By the Bay, a stage group, since the age of 11.

"We would always do community outreaches," she said. "As I grew older, I started to understand I could make a difference."

So, it's appropriate that the temple where she starred in such productions as "Annie" and "Oliver!" (Yes, she played the title role in both) should be the first beneficiary of the new musical collaboration.

And active temple member Martha Stein, a past president who was influential in booking the group, couldn't be happier.

"We're very proud of Isabel," Stein said. "We've seen her grow up. Then to see she wants to give back to the temple and the community says so much about the girl."

Sofia Luetich of Flushing and Marisa Noon of Little Neck, both 15, are among other members, as is Robin's younger sister, Tess, 13, who will be in the debut performance.

Luetich, who has performed in nursing homes on school outings, said, "It's really nice to see someone smile and know we're there for them."

The first concert is billed as "A Cabaret Brunch" and will also feature consumable goodies. It will present a musical journey through the American songbook, Broadway show tunes and other classic favorites.

According to Robin, the numbers will



**Bayside native Isabel Robin, 16, is the founder of a group that will perform Broadway show tunes and other classic favorites for senior centers, hospitals and other venues.**

PHOTO BY MARK LORD


include "Over the Rainbow," "Someone to Watch over Me" and "Where the Boys Are." Accompanying the group on piano will be Alan Baboff, Theatre By the Bay's musical director. And audience members shouldn't be surprised if, at some point, they will be asked to sing along.

The aim, Robin said, as the group's name suggests, "is about spreading joy. Every time I'm on stage I love it more. To do it for other people is an amazing thing."

Stein said she is thrilled to have the group perform as a benefit for the temple, though she said, "We have no concept whatsoever" as to how much money it might raise.

"We want to be able to offer Isabel this opportunity to fulfill what she has in her head," she said.

The group is booked for a senior center this summer, with other gigs planned.

"People who can't come to see shows, we're coming to them," Robin said. 

## 'A Cabaret Brunch'

**When:** Sun., June 28, 11 a.m.

**Where:** Bay Terrace Garden Jewish Center, 13-00 209 St., Bayside

**Tickets:** \$10; (718) 428-6363