

Emerging Arist: Anam Cara Dixon

Musician's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/anamcaradixon>

There are many of us who feel that Miss Anam Cara Dixon is deserving of this award based on her talents, dedication, and passion for music AND performance. She deserves to be recognized because, at 13 years old, she has a wide and varied resume already. She has made and will continue to make significant artistic contributions to her fields of music. Anam is truly up-and-coming and wishes to concentrate on her music full-time! It is Anam's intention to attend the Julliard School in NYC and to tour with bluegrass and acoustic music festivals in the summers. Anam is interested in a variety of genres and styles of music. She plays the Celtic lever harp, the orchestral style pedal harp, and guitar and is a singer/songwriter, as well. She is currently teaching herself the banjo and the autoharp. She would also like to learn the fiddle and mandolin. Anam is a true multi-instrumentalist. She is local, and she is our hometown girl who has BIG visions. Anam is a role model for young people and elders, as well. She represents Flagstaff and its dedication to arts and culture in a truly grassroots way. She is a young person who, for the last 2 years, has made a name for herself in various pockets of our community. She is helping to fuel Flagstaff's cultural engine by putting herself out into our local community as well keeping her vision on getting out into the wider world. In the spring and fall of 2010, Anam recorded 2 demo cds with local musician and upright bass player for Muskellunge Bluegrass, Timothy Hogan. Demo 1 contains harp songs and guitar covers. Demo 2 contains four original songs. She does her own harmonies and is accompanied on lead guitar by Timothy Hogan. Nolan Mckelvey, lead for Muskellunge, bows the upright bass on one of the songs entitled Little Annie. Anam will record a 3rd demo of new originals in the spring of 2012.

While Anam started performing at the age of 7 on harp at weddings, it wasn't until about two years ago that she started performing in earnest in Flagstaff. Anam's first performance was on the window stage at what used to be the Grandon Art Gallery. From there, things have really taken off. She buskers on the street as much as her schedule will permit. She has performed various artwalk locations, including Flagstaff Bicycle Revolution, Rainbow's End, Fizz, Swaddee Thai, and RockitMan. She plays annually at The Peaks Retirement Community for their holiday dinner party for the elders that live there as well as the customer appreciation holiday open house at Warner's Nursery. For the last two years, she has traveled to Pagosa Springs, Colorado to perform at the Pagosa Hot Springs Resort and Hotel for Christmas. She performed at Heritage Square for the Goddess Get Down two summers ago. In 2010 and 2011, she performed at the Flagstaff Folk Festival. In January of 2011, she was a featured performer at the Flagstaff Friends of Rio de Flag benefit concert at The Green Room. She will return in for this event in Jan. of 2012. In 2011 she was invited to play at the Flagstaff Children's Festival. The spring of 2011 also brought her an opportunity to play for the NAU symphony as their harpist. She played with them for their spring opera entitled The Elixir of Love. She has been invited back

as their harpist for the spring opera season at NAU. It is quite an honor for her to be playing at the college level at just 13 years of age. In June of 2011, Anam initiated and performed for her own fundraiser at The Wine Loft in downtown Flagstaff. It was standing room only, and Anam performed on harp and guitar to a full house. This fundraiser was and is (it is ongoing) entitled: The Anam Cara Dixon Project: A Creative Endeavor of All Things Musical. She raised over \$1,000 that night. That night she played with many local musicians. Among them were Brad Bays, Keith Gamora, Mandy Ferrarini, and Dave Mcgraw. Dave has noted on more than one occasion Anam's natural ease up on stage and has also been noted to say 'she hit that note better than I can.' Brad Bays has been noted to say that 'she inherently knows how to manage a band up on stage. She cues us in and out like a pro.' She is a struggling musician, and all donations to Anam's project go directly to her musical needs. This event was supported by Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music (FFOTM) and the Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society. FFOTM acts as her fiscal agent when donations come in so that donations may be tax-deductible. Anam obtained special permission from Uwe Kruger himself of the Kruger Brothers to attend his SOLD-OUT intermediate guitar classes at Rockygrass Academy last July. She pitched herself to him for two months, and he agreed to let her in. Her travel and attendance to the Academy were made possible by the fundraiser she held. In February of 2011, she was honored to be asked by the Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society to play the harp at the annual Robert Burns Supper, dedicated to honoring Scotland's poetic hero, Robert Burns. She also had the great pleasure of performing at the Northern Arizona Highland Celtic Festival in July of 2011 with world champion piper, Robert Watt, as well as performing two solo sets. She not only performed with Robert Watt, she spent the week prior to the festival writing a harp piece to go with an Irish steel flute piece that Robert performed in honor of the festival organizer, Jude McKenzie.

November 18, 2011, brought her first performance with the Flagstaff Folk Project as their featured performer. To date, she is their youngest featured performer. December 7th she performs with the NAU orchestra on the pedal harp. On December 10, 2011, she performs solo at Sundara Boutique and Performance Center for the first time. Craig Yarbrough will follow her on the guitar. In January of 2012, she will perform at Sundara again, this time with a full band. This performance will serve as an audition for next year's Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Festival. She hopes to gain a one-hour local spot and perform with a full band. Brad Bays will accompany on mandolin and lead guitar with other local adult musicians. Anam was honored to perform a 'tweener' set at Pickin' in the Pines 2011. She played with local musicians Timothy Hogan on upright bass and Brad Bays on mandolin. This opportunity has fueled her desire to be a featured local band at next year's PIP 2012. The Kruger Brothers are the headliners, and so she has a special interest in debuting as Flagstaff's hometown girl with big dreams. The Kruger Brothers are putting on their own music academy in May of 2012, and Anam hopes to raise the money to attend and continue to build her rapport with them. At Rockygrass Academy last

summer, Uwe Kruger had positive feedback for Anam and was impressed with her technique and singing abilities at such a young age. She engages audiences of all ages in a delightful and entertaining manner. Anam needs only the opportunity to get out into the world to start gaining a solid fan base. It is her hope to travel coast-to-coast promoting her music as soon as she gains the funds to do so.