

Drifting into a dream...

by debbie brower

Dallas...Agent...Audition...Podcasting. These words are at the center of Karmyn Tyler's environment.

Little girls dream big. Sometimes bigger than anyone can imagine. So imagine how any little girl feels when in front of a huge audience, microphone in front of her face, singing her song to a crowd of a thousand onlookers. What would any mother be thinking? On the edge of her seat, praying that her child makes it through the song, mouthing the words, swaying with the beat, this little girl's mother is there with her, every step, every beat, every missed note or word. But there are others there, too.

Maybe that's what makes Karmyn Tyler just who she is. For every student she teaches, she is there with them – every step, every beat, every note or word. Watching her face as she passionately watches her students perform, you know that her heart is with every single one. Her love shows in her eyes so expressively that it makes you want to cry for both her and her students. But then, why cry when they have done so well?

Karmyn is not a stranger to singing at a young age. In fact, she knows exactly how her students feel. Her pre-school teacher, Margaret

Hallenbeck, recognized that talent, stating that "Karmyn's voice was so clear and angelic that it gave me goose bumps". Singing for Christmas plays and taking a children's acting class gave birth to a love for song and theater that exists in Karmyn today.

Karmyn's love of singing has led her down many different paths throughout her career. At age 11, she won the title of Miss Texas National Pre-Teen, along with the talent award. For the next year, she traveled Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, performing with many celebrities including comedian Justin Wilson. During that year, she was selected as the lead singer in Channel 12's "For Kids Sake" music video and while in high school, was a contestant on Ed McMahon's Star Search.

Acting seemed a natural progression for this young girl. At age 15, Karmyn was introduced to the talents of Michael Cooper when he cast her as Sister Mary Leo in TexRep's production

of "Nunsense". Private lessons, college courses, several awards, and an associate's degree later, she enrolled at Centenary College in Shreveport as a music major and drama minor. While attending Centenary, she won the title of Miss Louisiana, winning a Bert Parks Talent Award and placing in the Top 15 at Miss America.

Whew! What do you do after all of that? What a childhood! Well, not resting

on her laurels, Karmyn then assembled a bio and resume and headed to Dallas to seek representation. Why wouldn't someone want to represent such a hard-working young lady?

Well, that is

easier said than done. Most agencies for commercial acting require a 100 mile radius residency. However, it didn't take long for her to get noticed – and get representation. The result was appearances in several episodes of "Walker, Texas Ranger", numerous regional and national commercials including Applebees, Lincoln/Mercury and American Airlines, and a music video for Barney and Ty Herndon's "Steam". She was cast in a co-starring role in the movie "Alabama Love Story" with country music artist Mark Colley which premiered in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Nashville,

Word of the year for 2005 – as picked by the editors of the New Oxford American Dictionary – is **podcast**. "Think of it as Tivo for your ears. No longer do you have to listen to a show when a company wants you to. You listen on your own schedule." C.C. Chapman, manager of the Podsafe Music Network



Tennessee. She has appeared in an episode of "Just Shoot Me" and Gross Pointe in Los Angeles and a "Sound of Music" video in New York.

Karmyn has trained with vocal, dance and acting teachers in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago. Last year she attended 8 weeks of classes in Los Angeles with Casting Director Mary Jo Slater, mother of actor Christian Slater. Karmyn believes that no matter how well you do a job, you can always learn from others and you should never stop learning! "I have worked very hard at my craft of acting and feel very blessed at my accomplishments", she says. When asked what she considered to be her greatest accomplishment so far, Karmyn responds, "I think being able to meet and perform for Charlton Heston was the greatest. I felt like I was looking into the eyes of 'Moses'!"



Where does all of that lead us? Down a merry path to what is and

has been Karmyn's passion her entire life – singing! Last November, Karmyn released a jazz CD. Producer William E Johnson, of Dallas, and arranger Chris Meeks, an old friend from her Texarkana College days who now also lives in Dallas, were integral parts of this grand adventure, including her debut concert at the Perot Theater.

Since its release, the CD has done well on NPR stations and internet stations both in the US and UK. You see, through researching this article, I have discovered that it is very difficult to get airplay for an independent artist. Large stations use a lot of music from satellite and they will not play an artist unless he or she is charted. The problem is, you can't get charted unless you are played. It is a 'catch 22' that all independent artists are well aware of. Karmyn has found a new avenue for promoting her music. "For me, podcasting and the internet have

been the greatest tool for getting our music heard", she states.



Recently, Karmyn caught the attention of Daily Source Code Podcaster Adam Curry, a 1980's DJ for MTV, with her recording of "Summertime." Curry played it on his show and commented at the end of the song, "Ah, Man, Who IS this girl?" That play gave Karmyn instant

What do today's Podcast Leaders have to say about Karmyn? Check it out!

Aaron Bates – The Big Show -- <http://www.bigshowradio.blogspot.com>. I heard about Karmyn Tyler at the Podsafe Music Network (www.music.podshow.com). I feature two independent artists each week and I was listening to several different artists, trying to find a good fit for the show, when I came across her music. I immediately stopped everything I was doing at the time because I simply couldn't believe what I was hearing. She was leaps and bounds above any other independent artist I've ever heard. Her song "Make Believe" truly made me feel like I was right there in the room with her and she was singing directly to me. You don't find that much in music today, and especially in independent music because most artists aren't willing to take chances with music like she has. My listeners truly love hearing her music and have emailed me to let me know that. Many have commented they would love to hear more from her and I look forward to bringing them more of her in the future. As a person, there is no one more down to earth than Karmyn. In my contact with her, she's been so appreciative of having the exposure on my show and I sometimes want to say "I should be thanking you for allowing me to play your music". She has truly embraced podcasting and she's truly someone I hope makes it big out there.

C.C. Chapman – U-Turn Café and Accident Hash -- <http://u-turncafe.podshow.com> -- As the manager of the Podsafe Music Network I make it a habit to check out as many of the new artists that come into the PMN as possible. When Karmyn uploaded her music her voice instantly hooked me. As soon as she uploaded an original song I jumped on the chance to play her music because she has such a great voice. How could I NOT play her music?

Dee Chapman -- Radio Gets Wild, United Kingdom -- www.radiogetswild.com. Whilst I promote Indie and Unsigned Artists, I am a big Jazz fan and also do Jazz and Blues shows on Radio Gets Wild. I try to select Artists' for interview that are not only musically talented but able to talk intelligently about the music business, their commitment to it and general experiences of how they started in the music business, the projects they are working on and goals for the future. We are listened to in 56 countries, soon to be 91 countries. We have had very positive feedback from our listener's about Karmyn's music and how enjoyable the interview that she did with me was. Karmyn is a very intelligent and articulate lady and her enthusiasm for music and her commitment shone through during the interview. Karmyn has the

determination to succeed and she certainly has the talent to do so. I am just very surprised that she has not been signed up by a Record Label for a recording contract because she certainly deserves the opportunity. I have invited Karmyn to join me again during 2006 to update us on what has been happening with her career since the November interview.

Dr. Mike – RadioioJazz -- www.radioiojazz.com. Mid-October, I received an email from William E. Johnson, promoter, announcing Karmyn's cd and requested that he send a copy to the radioioJazz studio. This is normal. WWW.radioioJAZZ.com is heard in over 78 different countries and has grown to be one of the largest radio networks of our type in the world. We receive music daily from established artists and hopeful independents as well. We are constantly seeking new artists that can add to our fresh and unique sound. Much of the music we receive does not fit our format ... but as I heard Karmyn's cd, I was immediately impressed... the pure quality of her voice and natural expression got my attention. When I hear an artist for the first time, I try to focus in and give the artist a fair chance... I want to hear whether the voice is 'believable' ... whether it has quality and depth... intonation and

recognition. However, that also stirred up a little controversy in the podcasting world as that particular song was not podsafesafe – another one of those new words. Podsafesafe music is free of the licensing restrictions typical of major-label productions and thus safe for use on podcasts, which are the booming Internet audio equivalent of blogs. The song was taken off of the PMN (Podsafesafe Music Network) and Adam encouraged her to write some original songs so she

could play her music again. Karmyn sat down and wrote “Drifting” and once again got together with Chris to arrange and record it as a demo for podcasting. Podcasters immediately started playing it and it debuted at #8 on the Podcast Music Network Top Ten Countdown.

When Dr. Mike of RadioJazz Radio in North Carolina heard “Drifting”, he loved it and asked Karmyn if he could feature it even though it was only a demo. After

the feature, several listeners asked Dr. Mike about how to get a copy and he advised Karmyn that she needed to make it available. Dr. Mike featured Karmyn’s album as his “hot pick of the week”, and Eban Crawford, of the Reaching for Lucidity podcast made Karmyn Queen of the Royal Court on his site.

As Christmas season began, Adam Curry was encouraging independent artists to



inflection. Karmyn’s delivery was fresh and passed the test. I knew right away that her talent was something special... Karmyn has her own ‘voice’...

Drifting is a great track... Before I even heard it, I learned that the words and music were written by Karmyn and music arranged by Chris Meeks... not a cover tune. Original music from an artist establishes the depth and true character of a musician’s talent .. much more than performing someone else’s art. I was not disappointed when I first heard ‘Drifting’. The melancholy melody and lyrics mysteriously drew me in immediately... the simplicity of the arrangement also was a plus for me. During the week I featured Karmyn’s cd as one of dr mike’s hot picks, there was much interest generated toward Karmyn as a performer... After hearing Drifting, I wanted listeners to experience Karmyn’s talent as multi faceted .. as a song writer and collaborator with Chris. And that is why I requested a copy even

knowing that it was not totally finished...

Corey James – RedJazz Radio, Mission Viejo, CA. In addition to our podcast, we are also syndicated on KYOU AM 1550 in San Francisco, CA. -- www.redjazz.com. I first heard Karmyn’s music on Adam Curry’s “Daily Source Code” podcast, which is arguably the most widely listened to podcast today. Karmyn Tyler is a great example of how a motivated musical artist can achieve success using internet radio and podcasting. Musicians don’t have to wait for a record company to “discover” them anymore. They can produce their own album for a reasonable cost, then work with online record stores like CD Baby to get their discs and downloadable songs sold on the internet. After they have music to sell, musicians have literally hundreds of web sites, online forums, blogs, podcasts, and internet radio stations that can instantly help promote their work to a worldwide audience. Just think, that little band from Erie, PA can have a big following in Tokyo

without ever leaving their parent’s garage. Other musicians should take a look at what Karmyn has been doing in the way of self promotion and internet radio/podcasting. Musicians today can make a name for themselves by building their own audience on the internet before a big label offers them a record deal.

Eban Crawford – Reaching for Lucidity, United Kingdom -- <http://www.reachingforlucidity.net>. I do what I do because of the amazing talent that Karmyn and other artists bring to the world. I truly think Karmyn should be touring with Harry Connick Jr. or someone like that rather than being on my podcast. Know this, the day that she is no longer “Podsafesafe” because she has become one of the biggest artists around will be a happy one! Until that day, I will continue to spread the word as best that I can. I say it all the time on the show -- If people only look to corporate labels or radio for their music, they are missing 99% of the story.

write Podsafe Christmas music. Karmyn wrote and recorded "(I'll Be There) On Christmas Day," with the arrangement, of course, by Chris. C.C. Chapman was the first to play it on his U-Turn Café Podcast and the song debuted on the PMN at #5. Several traditional radio stations picked up the song for their Christmas air play as well.

So where does this all take Karmyn? Well, Karmyn has noticed a big increase in her website traffic, as well as downloads of the Christmas song and Drifting, which are only available on her site. Downloads on CDBaby and Amazon.com, as well as iTunes, MSNMusic, MusicMatch, and yahoo music.com, have increased dramatically. In addition, a thirst for knowledge keeps her continually learning. Having now obtained her Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University-Texarkana, she yearns for a master's. She continues classes in



vocology, sometimes traveling throughout the US to receive what she believes to be the best in the industry. When not auditioning or filming in Dallas, New York or Los Angeles, Karmyn teaches voice, diction and acting in Texarkana. She has also teamed up with Image Forward of Texarkana for pageant consultation including modeling, and interview techniques.

What better way for her to use her God-given talents but to help others find theirs. Watch her when her students are performing and you will see that huge heart, bursting out into the expressions on her face, showing you exactly how much compassion she has for her students, her friends, and her family. She is exactly

what she seems to be.

And although her song talks of "drifting" through life, she is definitely on a path – a path to success. Hopefully we will see her along the way.

Oh, and one more thing, C. C. Chapman says, "She has the most amazing green eyes that I've ever seen!" I agree.

Check out what Karmyn is doing at her website, www.karmyntyler.com.



Karmyn assists one of her students, Tara Clem, with vocal techniques (below).



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