

# Sarah's Solo

By Jane McBride (Based on a true story)

"Sarah, would you like to sing in a program?" asked Ms. Gardner, Sarah's voice teacher. "I'd love to!" Sarah said.

"It will be good for you to sing in front of others," Ms. Gardner said, writing in her notebook. "The program is at the end of August, so you'll have all summer to get ready."

Sarah told her parents about the program as soon as she got home. She called her grandparents right after dinner. She was so happy!

At her next lesson, Sarah and Ms. Gardner picked out two songs for the program. One song was from an opera, and the other was from a musical play. Then Sarah got to work.

She practiced her songs with Ms. Gardner. And she practiced at home every day. Soon she had her songs memorized. Still, she kept working.

Finally, the day of the program came. Sarah got ready. She put on her blue dress. She brushed her hair. Then she knelt by her bed and asked for Heavenly Father's help.

Soon they were on their way to the program. "Are you scared?" her mom asked.

Sarah shook her head. "I know the songs so well I could sing them backward!"

Mom smiled. "You've practiced really hard this summer."

When they got to the program, Sarah sat next to

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her parents and grandparents. Her friend Megan was the first to sing. Evan sang next. Sarah and the rest of the audience clapped after each song.

When it was Sarah's turn, she took a big breath and walked to the microphone. She sang the first song perfectly. Ms. Gardner smiled at her. Then Sarah started the second song.

It was all going well until she got to the chorus. And then it happened. She forgot the words! Her mind went completely blank. She looked nervously at the audience and motioned to the pianist to stop.

"I'm sorry," Sarah said. "I'd like to start again."

Her hands were a little sweaty. She could feel her heart pounding in her chest. She took another deep breath, nodded to the pianist, and began again.

This time, she remembered all the words. The audience clapped when she finished. Sarah smiled, but she was embarrassed.

After the program, Sarah found her teacher.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Gardner," she said. "I really messed up."

"Not at all, Sarah," her teacher said. "You lost your place. That can happen to anyone. The important thing is that you carried on."

"That's right," Grandma said, joining them. "We're so proud of you."

That night, Sarah thought about the program. She still felt bad about messing up. But Ms. Gardner was right. Sarah *had* carried on. She could be proud of that.

*It's a lot like repentance*, she thought.

"Hey, Mom!" Sarah called, running to her parents' bedroom. "I figured out that the program is like life."

"How's that, sweetie?" Mom asked. Sarah flopped onto the bed next to Mom.

"I made a mistake in my solo, but I fixed it and moved on. In life, when I make a wrong choice, I can fix it by repenting. Then I can move on and do better."

"You know, that sounds like a great theme for home evening," Mom said. "Want to give the lesson?"

"Sure!" Sarah said. She couldn't wait to share what she had learned. ●

*This story took place in the USA.*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALYSSA TALLENT

