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## Blind Teenager Performs At Reading Fair

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Pam Cunningham | Reporter

Posted: 10:32 pm EDT August 10, 2010

Updated: 11:21 pm EDT August 10, 2010

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**BERN TWP., Pa.** -- A talented 13-year-old graced the stage at the Reading Fair tonight.

Many admire his musical gift, but for many others there's much more than admiration, they see him as an inspiration.

It's unusual to see a 13-year-old who loves singing jazz standards.

It's a little bit different, Rocco Fiorentino said because a lot of my friends are like: Who's Frank Sinatra? Who's Tony Bennett? What is this?

Fiorentino recognizes that the younger generation may not understand, but he knows his audience appreciates it.

I love it, he said. I love being up here, feeling how the people are, I just think it's awesome.

Fiorentino feels what he can't see.

He had 12 major surgeries, 72 blood transfusions, and the least of his disabilities is the fact that he can't see, said Rocco's mom Tina.

And he doesn't mind talking about it.

If you want to ask me something just ask me, he said.

So WFMZ's Pam Cunningham asked him what she called her "stupid" question; at the Reading Fair she see the rides, the animals and of course the food, but what does he see at the fair? Fiorentio replied, the whole atmosphere, the people, the food, and the different grass, just the whole thing creates, I don't know how to explain it, it's a picture, but it's not a visual picture.

And he paints a musical image with his jazz, without really knowing how.

I hear music, I guess my ears are just good, he says.

This stage is just the beginning to a bigger one in the future.

I'd like to be somewhere like Carnegie Hall or something like that one day maybe have a orchestra behind me something like that, he said.

I would love that.

Until then he'll play for the crowd at the fair and do more than just entertain with his music.

His message has been from early on that people who can't see can do the same thing as sighted people.

I see myself as normal. I don't mind who I am, he said.

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