

## The Paradise Center Presents

# Moriah Champneys

## Home School Spotlight on the Arts



Interviewed by  
Jo Carpenter

*“Spotlight on the Arts” by The Paradise Center honors and encourages students in the arts by highlighting their talent and acknowledging the support they receive through their schools and teachers.*

Moriah Champneys comes from a long line of professional musicians. Her great-grandfather, The Reverend James Murk, won the Ted Mack Amateur Hour in 1963 and spent the next twenty plus years traveling and singing with his wife and five children, who all played the violin and/or the cello. Moriah’s

grandfather is a world-class violinist and several aunts were professional musicians. Moriah’s mother also worked as a professional musician, so it is not surprising that Moriah is very musically talented. Her favorite instrument is the violin, but she also sings and plays the piano and harp.

Moriah is a 13-year-old, 8th grade home school student. She lives with her family outside of Plains. In addition to Moriah’s interest in music she is very involved with 4-H, showing a sheep, a dairy cow, and poultry at the Sanders County Fair.

After Moriah’s aunt came to visit several years ago, bringing her violin, Moriah just had to have a violin of her own. So she took the money she had made selling her 4-H sheep and purchased a three-quarter sized violin. Now two years later she has graduated to a full sized electric violin.

Moriah has weekly violin lessons from her great-aunt via zoom. She also has weekly piano lessons over zoom from another aunt that lives in Chicago. Moriah’s mother mentioned that she never has to remind Moriah to practice her instruments, but sometimes has to ask her to stop so she can do other tasks.

Moriah’s favorite composer for the violin is Mozart and her favorite piano composer is

Beethoven. Lindsay Sterling is a contemporary violinist that Moriah really enjoys. She can listen to Sterling's pieces and play them by ear.

Moriah shares some poetry that she has written and her music at the monthly Music and Poetry Night hosted by the home school co-op. She has written poetry about feelings, nature, animals, scripture, even about the things to look for in a future husband. Moriah plays with the worship team at her church and helps to lead worship.

Moriah has a dream to follow in the footsteps of her relatives and become a professional violinist. Meanwhile she will share her talents with her community and church group. Moriah advises other students interested in playing an instrument to practice hard and not get discouraged. She said that you get out of it what you put into it. Some very good advice!