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## A Shy Young Girl Blossoms from the Performing Arts

Lily Miller was a timid and introverted eight-year-old little girl. She enjoyed doing things alone like listening to music and reading. Also, since she was homeschooled, she didn't really have many opportunities to interact with people. She liked to play with her puppy, Petunia, most of the time.

### A Life-Changing Decision

One day, Lily asked her mother if she could sing in a choir like her sisters. Colleen, Lily's mom, said "I really didn't think I would find any choir that would take an eight-year-old but after some research I found Milwaukee Children's Choir."



Lily's experience at Milwaukee Children's Choir has taught her not only music theory, but also important life skills that she could not have learned from homeschooling. She has come out of her shell thanks to her singing experiences. She has learned the lesson of teamwork by making beautiful harmonies with many other choristers at Milwaukee Children's Choir.

"I really can't begin to explain what three years with Milwaukee Children's Choir has done for her," remarked Lily's mom. "She went in a shy, introverted little girl, and now she has the strength and confidence to get up in front of a group of people and sing. And, she has no problem interacting with adults."

Lily's voice and knowledge of music have developed as well. Marco Melendez, Milwaukee Children's Choir artistic director, said "Lily was a shy girl who, at the time, possessed a small and untrained voice. She has grown enormously in such a small amount of time. She has gone from not being able to read music at all to being able to immediately sing music when reading it at first sight. The level of her confidence when performing has skyrocketed, and her ability to grasp a mature understanding for poetic text has blossomed."

## The Impact of Music

As we can tell from Lily's story, Milwaukee Children's Choir helps children develop life skills such as personal expression, teamwork and self-confidence through hands-on choral music education instruction. The organization has also been providing cultural and historical experiences to children by touring regionally, nationally and internationally.

Lily's mom puts it this way, "It's been such a remarkable growth experience for her in so many ways. I'm very proud of Lily."



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