

Teen Singing Sensation



Oprah says there's nothing more fun than helping to make someone's dreams come true...especially when that someone is a gifted young person who really wants it and really deserves it.

Charice Pempengco's dream of becoming a singer began halfway around the world in the Philippines. She found a following on the Internet after a stranger posted her jaw-dropping performances on YouTube.

Oprah's producers were among the 13 million people who logged on to watch this 16-year-old sensation sing songs made famous by artists like Celine Dion and Beyoncé. Then, in May 2008, Charice flew 15 hours to showcase her talent on *The Oprah Show*. She stole the show with a soul-stirring rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing."

Millions of viewers were moved by Charice's powerful voice—including Gayle King. "That evening Gayle called me," Oprah says. "She said she fell off her treadmill when she heard that girl." Oprah says the performance blew her Manolos off!

Charice's voice wasn't the only thing that impressed Oprah. "One of the things I love most about Charice is that no matter what obstacles she's faced in her life, she's never given up on her dream of something better," Oprah says.

Charice first recorded "Note to God" on her album *The High Road* back in 2006. The song was written by Diane Warren. Charice's cover version was produced by David Foster. Charice brought the audience to their feet and Oprah Winfrey to tears. Today, the day after initial release, "Note to God" is inside the top 5 of the iTunes sales chart. Have the efforts of a television legend brought us an enduring pop star?