

# Winning radio contest opens doors for teen

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votes," he says.

"I really liked being a part of it and decided next year I would try it again."

On March 31, 2011, Dexter went before another panel of judges, this time at the Perkins Restaurant in Lewisburg. He chose to sing the song "Shipwreck" by one of his favorite contemporary bands, Starfield.

The song's lyrics talk about being broken and in need of change. A repeated lyric in the song says, "Your life in me, changing who I've been ... to who I need to be."

Dexter was in the WGRC studios April 8 singing for listeners. The segment was recorded and it aired on April 17. A phone number was given for each finalists and it was up to listeners to decide who would be the winner.

Among those listening were his peers, many of whom would never turn on a Christian radio station. "A lot of my friends heard me on the radio. I'm glad they were listening to it."

Dexter also says his favorite Christian music has a heavier sound, not likely to be sung in a

• "I've been  
• waiting for so  
• long to feel  
• this heartbeat  
• ... Fix me,  
• Father,  
• fix me ..."

— Sung by  
Dexter  
Ehrenzeller

church setting or even on WGRC. As a result of his win he was able to sing three songs on the radio, was offered three CDs of his choice, performed at WGRC Day at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg and was able to record a song at Songcrafters in Beaver Springs.

Dexter listens to the band Emery, a band with a loud edge and sometimes screaming lyrics. The lyrics, however, have a message of Christ's ability to heal and the brokenness

of the human spirit. The McAlisterville teen decided to record one the band's lighter songs, "Fix Me."

Emery's lead singer Toby Morrell sings in the original version, "I've been waiting so long to feel this heartbeat ... Fix me, Father, fix me ..."

Dexter sang those same words with the same humble desire. The songs he chooses have the same central theme: to let God heal what is broken.

And the teenager sings to give God the credit and to influence his peers that there is a source of hope for their pain, he says.

"It's (singing) is a great opportunity to share with them."

The lyrics to the song Dexter sang at age 11 speak to what he is trying to represent.

"Who am I? That the Lord of all the earth would care to know my name? Would care to feel my hurt?"

Dexter says he would ultimately love to be someone who would continue to sing publicly and help people see the answer to "Who Am I?" But if it's not God's plan for his life, he says he is OK with that, too.

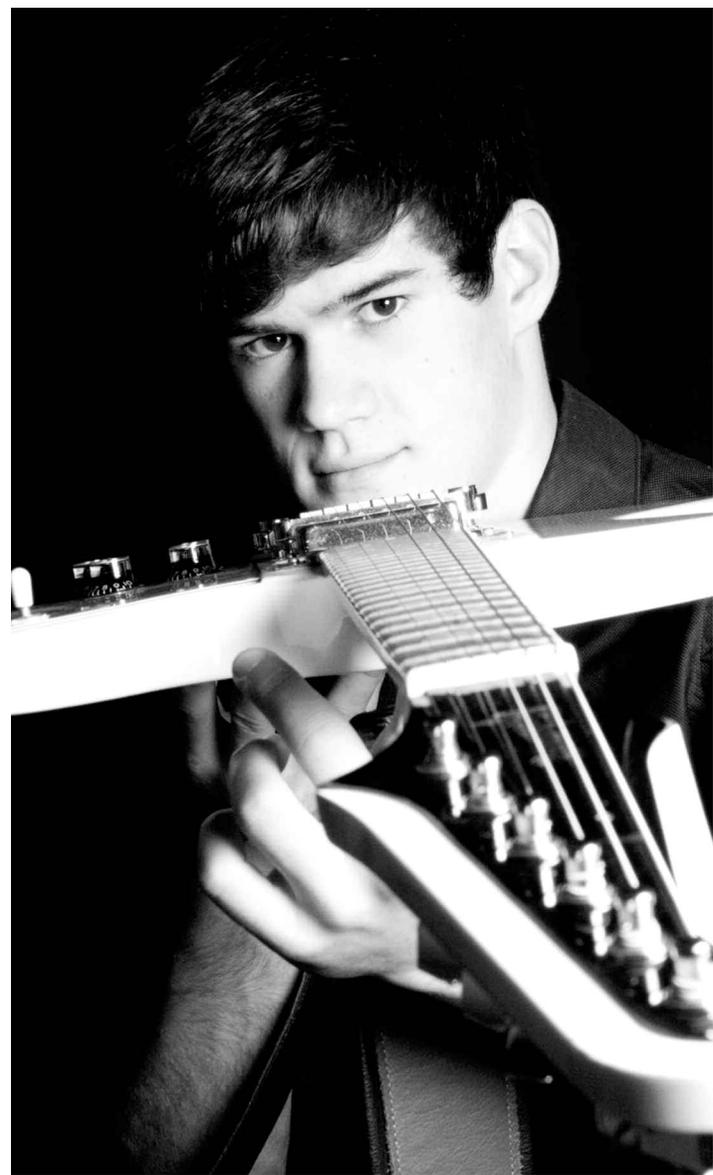


Photo courtesy of Shena Pinto, Simply Pictoral LLC  
Dexter Ehrenzeller

## JV kid

My favorite JV kid is Jimmy Fisher, of Lewistown. Jimmy and I met Oct. 3, 2011, at the Lumina Center in Lewisburg, through Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We just clicked since that first night. He is a very loveable, kind and caring young man. I wish for 1,000 + more young men like him for our town. I tell him what Lewistown and other areas of Mifflin County were like when I was his age. I really hope this relationship continues for many, many years to come. I thank the Lord every night for making our paths cross that night.

— Submitted by Tim Kuppel, Lewistown

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