

{PROFILE} OF THE WEEK

»»»»»»»» SOFIA KHOROSH: SINGER/SONGWRITER AND ««««««««
EPILEPSY AWARENESS ACTIVIST



Freshman business administration major, Sofia Khorosh, is a singer/songwriter and guitarist who raises awareness for epilepsy by using her talents on stage at venues throughout New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. She partnered up with Candlelight Concert for Epilepsy Awareness to perform in concerts like the one on Monday, Oct. 14, and even open for Ed Roland of Collective Soul. - Photo courtesy of Dae of the Klasix.

Devon Marshall
Staff Writer

One in 26 people will develop it in their lifetimes. Approximately 50,000 people die in incidents related to it each year, and it currently affects 65 million people worldwide. All of these stark statistics about epilepsy are the reason why freshman business administration major and musician Sofia Khorosh and Candlelight Concert for Epilepsy Awareness are bringing this issue to light.

Known as Sofia Nicole on stage, Khorosh, who has been singing from the age of one and wrote her first song when she was seven, has been musically inclined her whole life. In 2009, Khorosh paired up with a band that had great exposure. They were featured in shows at such notable venues as Asbury Park's The Stone Pony and The Saint, as well as Six Flags Great Adventure.

Feeling like she wanted more than just standalone singing, Khorosh looked to ramp up her skill set and learned to play the guitar at age 14.

"But [singing] wasn't enough for me — I needed to learn something new and wanted to challenge myself," Khorosh said on her website,

sofianicolemusic.com.

Khorosh became involved in epilepsy awareness after meeting Candlelight Concert for Epilepsy Awareness' creator Eric Miller during an annual holiday radio program entitled "Rock On Radio Christmas Spectacular." The topic of

"She's been truly a blessing and I'm equally honored to have her returning on this special night. She has a huge future ahead of her and I'll be proud to brag I knew her when."

epilepsy takes a personal tone with Khorosh.

"The reason I'm so emotionally invested in this cause is because one of my closest friends has epilepsy," Khorosh said. "I learned about it through her, but I didn't know about SUDEP [Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy] until I met Eric Miller."

Eric Miller began Candlelight in honor of his late wife, Carolina, who passed away due to SUDEP.

In memory of her, Miller began to champion the spread of awareness and

information about epilepsy through a concert series. In March 2013, Miller brought his organization to the national stage by launching 50 Concerts in 50 States, a series of coordinated live events around the country in one weekend, featuring hundreds of

artists such as Eric Clapton, Garbage, Colbie Caillat, Imagine Dragons, Aimee Mann, Rita Coolidge and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

"With the 50 Concerts in 50 States effort back in March, we were able to distribute info and facts about epilepsy at 100-plus concerts around the country," Miller said. "Over time and by pushing forward, we'll hopefully keep reaching more and more people over time, changing the way people see and understand epilepsy one concert at a time."

Khorosh sang at three Candlelight Concerts in the past and had a show on Oct. 14 at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Ewing, N.J. She opened for Ed Roland, from the platinum-selling band Collective Soul, and his new ensemble, The Sweet Tea Project.

"I couldn't be more grateful to be a part of this concert," Khorosh said. "My friends are huge fans of Collective Soul, too, so it feels surreal to be opening for the lead singer of such a well-known band. It's just mind-blowing."

Khorosh's EP, entitled "Extraordinary," is in the works and is currently being sold during her shows as a pre-release until her official release date arrives. Sofia Nicole will make her return to the Candlelight series on Dec. 7 for a holiday show in Ewing where she will be a featured artist on the lineup rather than opening for the night.

Miller commented on Khorosh and her performances for Candlelight Concerts, expressing his gratefulness.

"She's been truly a blessing and I'm equally honored to have her returning on this special night," Miller said. "She has a huge future ahead of her and I'll be proud to brag I knew her."

For comments/questions about this story, email features@thewhitonline.com or tweet @thewhitfeatures.