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Joni joins pros after dream gig

By **ROBIN DUKE**
Entertainment Editor

A LYTHAM singer-songwriter has made her professional debut at a top music venue.

Joni Fuller, of Otley Road, appeared live alongside acclaimed band Pete and the Pirates at The Barfly in Cardiff.

The 17-year-old was one of six young acts from around the UK who beat off stiff competition for the chance to gig with professional bands as part of **Youth Music Week 2008**.

Joni, who has been writing her own material since she was eight years old, loves to perform live and plays piano, guitar and violin during her sets.

Her influences include the likes of Tori Amos and Regina Spektor.

Amazing

The winners were chosen by Youth Music's panel of judges including Blur's ex manager Jason Lamont and Austin Daboh, music co-ordinator for BBC digital radio station 1Xtra.

The judges watched each act perform two tracks and gave advice on professional and musical development, style and performance techniques.

Richard Stilgoe, Youth Music's chairman of trustees, said: "It is fantastic to see so much incredible talent among our next generation of young musicians.

"We had an utterly amazing field of kids to choose from, which made this competition so difficult to judge. Our winners are brimming with talent and are absolutely the best young acts from the UK today.

"Giving them the chance to gig alongside an established band in a credible arena is a great opportunity for these youngsters."

■ You can listen to Joni and find out more about Youth Music Week at www.youthmusicweek.org.uk



YOUNG TALENT: Joni Fuller and guitarist Tim De Grauw

