

OAKLAND PRESS MUSIC

Rochester Hills teen's "Screw Valentine's Day" wins Lennon song contest

By **Gary Graff**, *The Oakland Press*

POSTED: 02/14/14, 2:58 PM EST | UPDATED: 49 SECS AGO



Olivia Millerschin, 18, of Rochester Hills, performs "Screw Valentine's Day," her John Lennon Songwriting Contest's special Valentine's Day competition grand prize winning song. (Photo courtesy YouTube)

Olivia Millerschin got flowers and a book from her boyfriend of two years for Valentine's Day.

And a different kind of valentine on Friday from the John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

The Rochester Adams High School grad's light-hearted pop song "Screw Valentine's Day" was named the winning entry in the Lennon competition's special Love, Love, Love contest — which Millerschin learned on Friday morning as she was exiting her English class at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

“They just tweeted it, and I was like, ‘Oh, I guess I won ...,’ “ Millerschin, 18, says with a laugh. “I had kind of forgotten about it. I was just coming out of class and was like, ‘What?!’ It was pretty cool.”

The Love, Love, Love grand prize includes an Epiphone John Lennon Casino guitar, a Neutrik custom John Lennon Educational Tour Bus Cable and a JamHub BedRoom sound mixing system, which Millerschin says she’s “looking forward to playing with.” The song will automatically be entered in the main Lennon contest, which launched on Friday.

The international songwriting contest launched in 1997, open to amateur and professional songwriters in 12 categories. It is open year-round and features two sessions, funneling down to 72 finalists, 24 grand prize winners, 12 Lennon Award winners and 1 “Song of the Year.” Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas, George Clinton, Prince Royce, 311, and Jim Steinman are members of the executive committee of judges.

Her victory gives a national boost to Millerschin’s musical ambitions. The granddaughter of a professional opera singer, she’s been playing guitar and writing songs she was 12. She released her first album, “Yes, No, Maybe” in 2013 and has just launched a PlegeMusic campaign to fund her upcoming “Over The Weather, which she plans to release in May.

Millerschin has also toured nationally with singer-songwriters such as Teddy Geiger and Howie Day. In Cincinnati she’s studying commercial music production, but she “might have to leave school next year to go on a couple more tours and then come back to school.”

And despite “Screw Valentine’s Day’s” sentiments, Millerschin has nothing against the holiday.

“I really like Valentine’s Day,” she says. “There’s chocolate and there’s love. I don’t know what there isn’t to like about it.”

For information on [The John Lennon Songwriting Contest](http://www.jlsc.com), visit www.jlsc.com.

View Millerschin’s video “[Screw Valentine’s Day](#),” and her other music videos, on YouTube.