

CLEVELAND
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Kvell corner

Kvell - To beam with immense pride and pleasure, most commonly over an achievement of a child.



Singer Michael Kaplan

Name: Michael Kaplan

Age: 18

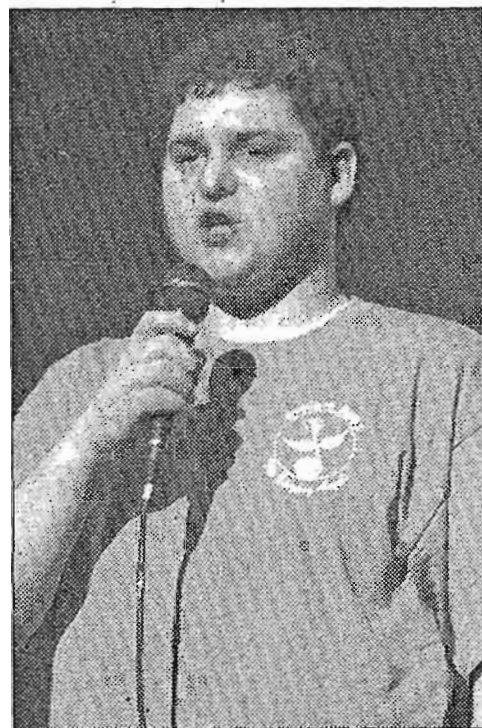
Family: Parents Dr. Elayne Baumgart and Steve, twin sister Sara (OK, she's two minutes older.)

They're kvelling because:

Michael is a soloist with the citywide Singing Angels Choir. For this chorus of 180 young voices, Michael rehearses in excess of 300 hours a year.

Last summer, Michael traveled and performed throughout Italy, Greece and Turkey with the Angels. He even performed at the Vatican before everyone waiting to see the pope.

"I felt a little out of place," he admits, singing religious songs like the "Hallelujah chorus" and "Ave



Maria" at the Vatican.

Then he quickly adds, "It doesn't matter where you're from or what race you are, the choir unites all of us through our interest in music. It has shown me everyone is different, but we can all work together."

Michael has studied piano, guitar and violin, but singing is his real passion.

Having a twin means always having an ally, and that's how he and Sara get along. Sara has been ill this past year, so Michael plans to stay close to home and start Notre Dame College.

Favorite Music: Anything except rap

Favorite Book: *Finding Fish* by Antwone Q. Fisher

Favorite Movie: "Mr. Holland's Opus"

No one knows: How much I love animals and nature

Favorite Jewish memory: Being with family on holidays