



Kelly - Oster School of Irish Dance, LLC

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Local 8-Year-Old Irish Dancer Places 10th in Nation

Cortlandt Manor Girl Dances to Great Heights

August 3, 2011, Brewster, NY – Emily Grace, 8, recently proved that big things come in small packages as she placed 10th in the 2011 North American Irish Dance Championships known as the “Nationals” held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN, July 2-6, 2011. The Van Cortlandtville Elementary School 4th grader sums up her reaction to placing 10th with a huge smile saying, “I couldn’t believe it!”

Emily started dancing only three years ago and has risen through the ranks as a solo championship dancer at the Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance (KKO). This past year she qualified to compete in the Nationals by placing in the top 30% in previous qualifying competitions. Prior to the Nationals, Emily had mainly competed in many feisanna (the Gaelic name for Irish dance competitions.)

Placing 10th out of 120 girls in the Under 9 category of the Nationals required Emily to consistently score high through three separate rounds of dance competition in front of an international panel of judges. Her dances included the Treble Jig, Reel and the Job of Journey Work, a traditional set. Emily took the stage with many dancers from North America but also international competitors from Australia, Ireland, England and Scotland.

“We were really, really excited for her,” says Lisa Grace, Emily’s mother. She and her husband Chris turned Emily’s opportunity into a great family vacation to the Music City and were accompanied by Emily’s younger sister Natalie, 6, who herself is already an advanced beginner dancer with KKO.

Emily’s extraordinary triumph adds to the list of KKO’s recent achievements especially when Brewster’s Kerry Maloney medaled in the rounds the “All-Irelands”, the 2011 All Ireland Irish Dancing Championships in Killarney, Ireland. “Emily is an exceptional dancer. Her extraordinary body control is a unique aspect for such a young dancer and adds to her talent. Emily is able to comprehend and perform very difficult material with almost perfect technique which normally takes dancers years to accomplish,” says Karyn Oster, KKO’s 2nd generation of Irish dance teachers. “It’s exciting that someone so young is reaching such great heights.”

No time to rest! Emily is now practicing and taking classes to prepare for the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition, better known as Oireachtas, to be held in November in Philadelphia, PA.

About Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance

Since 1982, the KKO School of Irish Dance has maintained goals of encouraging personal development and focus, aspiring towards excellence and always promoting teamwork. The majority of their dance students are from Putnam, Northern Westchester and Dutchess counties. The school organizes year-round fundraisers and an annual raffle to support their dance scholarship program for achievement and qualification in national and world championships.

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Above: Emily Grace, 8, following her National placement at the 2011 North American Irish Dance Championships, Nashville, TN joined by Karyn Oster and Kerry Kelly-Oster, teachers of The Kelly-Oster School of Irish Dance.