

A SHATTERING PERFORMANCE

Musician stuns audience by breaking a glass — with her voice!

You've never heard the Harry Potter theme sound like this. Last week, "glass musician" Rosie Shiraz finished her concert at Lincoln High by playing that haunting melody on a glass harp.

A glass harp is made of wine glasses. Each is filled with some water. You play it by rubbing the rims with wet fingers. Anyone can make a sound that way, but making music with wine glasses takes real talent. Shiraz played beautifully, and got a standing ovation.

For her encore, Shiraz did something truly amazing. She took an empty wine glass and began to sing a single high note — very loudly. After about 15 seconds, the glass shattered!

The audience went wild. But many people weren't convinced she actually broke the glass with her voice. Parent Brad Boyd was one of the doubters.

"That was a trick, right?" he said during a Q&A with Shiraz. "I mean, sound is a form of energy. How can energy — something you can't see or touch — break a real object? It's impossible."

"Is it?" said Shiraz. "Think of what microwave energy does to popcorn. It pops or breaks open hard corn kernels and turns them into fluffy puffballs. You can't



Steven Duong

Can the human voice really do this?

see or touch microwave energy, but it changes the temperature, size, and shape of the corn!"

"So you send out microwave energy when you sing?" Boyd asked, laughing.

"No, I send out vibrations. All sound begins with vibration. Touch your throat when you sing, and you can feel your vocal cords vibrating," said Shiraz.

"Those vibrations make the air particles near your throat move," she continued. "That air pushes against other bits of air and makes them move. That's how vibrations from your vocal cords are carried through the air and get the glass vibrating."

"And it vibrates enough to break?" asked Boyd.

"Yes, if you've hit exactly the right note," Shiraz answered. "And sing it very loudly."

"Well, I just don't buy it," said Boyd. "I still think you tricked us."

Shiraz performs again on Saturday, at the Community Theater. It's definitely worth catching her show. Then you can decide for yourself whether her glass-breaking act is for real — or just a clever trick.

Barynya, Russian Dance and Music Ensemble



A glass harp is made of about 50 wine glasses.