

= Jackie Evancho =

Jacqueline Marie " Jackie " Evancho (/ i??ve??ko? / ee @-@ VAYNG @-@ koh ; born April 9 , 2000) is an American classical crossover singer who gained wide recognition at an early age and , since 2009 , has issued an EP and five albums , including a platinum and gold album and three Billboard 200 top 10 debuts . She has made three solo Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) specials .

Between 2008 and 2010 , Evancho entered several talent competitions ; made singing appearances , including the US national anthem at a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game and in concerts with Tim Janis and David Foster ; issued an independent album , Prelude to a Dream ; and attracted interest on YouTube . In 2010 , at the age of ten , she gained wider popularity with her 2nd @-@ place finish in the fifth season of America 's Got Talent . With the 2010 holiday release of her O Holy Night EP , Evancho became the best @-@ selling debut artist of 2010 , the youngest top @-@ 10 debut artist in US history and the youngest solo artist ever to go platinum in the US . She performed at the 2010 National Christmas Tree lighting in Washington , D.C. In 2011 , her first full @-@ length album , Dream With Me , produced by Foster , debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart , and she became the youngest top @-@ 5 debut artist in UK history . Billboard ranked Evancho the top Classical Albums Artist for 2011 . Later that year , Evancho released another album , Heavenly Christmas , and became the youngest person ever to give a solo concert at Lincoln Center in New York City as part of her Dream With Me Tour .

Evancho is the ambassador for Mission : Humane , a US Humane Society program that encourages children to help protect animals . A national cotillion organization listed her as one of the " ten best @-@ mannered people of 2011 " . From late 2012 to 2014 , she toured the US , performing songs from her 2012 album , Songs from the Silver Screen , which was Evancho 's third top @-@ ten album debut . In 2013 she headlined benefit concerts at Carnegie Hall , the LDS Conference Center and with Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas for the One Drop Foundation . She also appeared in the 2013 Robert Redford film The Company You Keep and modelled for Guess Kids clothing . Evancho 's 2014 album , Awakening , was her fifth consecutive No. 1 release on the Billboard Classical Albums chart . Since then she has toured in support of Awakening and released several singles and collaborations in between her public school studies . She is expected to release a new album in 2016 .

= = Family and early life = =

Evancho 's parents are Lisa and Michael Evancho . Her father operated a video security business until 2010 . She has an older sister Juliet , a younger brother Zachary , and a younger sister Rachel . She and her family are Catholic and reside in a suburb of Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania . Evancho began her education in the Pine @-@ Richland School District public schools , but in 2010 , because of her touring schedule , she switched to cyber schooling . In 2014 she returned to public school . Evancho 's interests include playing the violin and piano , sewing , swimming , playing with her pets , drawing and archery .

Evancho saw the film version of the musical The Phantom of the Opera and liked it so much that her mother purchased the DVD ; Evancho began singing the songs around the family home . Her parents have said that they did not recognize that her voice was unusual until her first talent competition , which she entered just before her 8th birthday . In the competition , Kean Idol , Evancho finished in second place to a 20 @-@ year @-@ old opera singer . She began taking voice lessons , and her parents began receiving requests for her to sing at various events , churches and nursing homes , mostly in Pennsylvania . She also started a YouTube channel , sang in the Children 's Festival Chorus of Pittsburgh during its 2008 ? 09 season , and performed the title role in a 2009 school musical version of Little Red Riding Hood .

In January 2009 , Evancho competed in Las Vegas in the 15th annual U.S.A. World Showcase Talent Competition , where she also finished in second place . She entered the 2009 Kean Idol contest and was again runner @-@ up . In 2009 talent contests , she won the Golden Ribby Award

? WonderworldTV and the Talent Quest TV Show (both in Massachusetts) . Also in 2009 , she sang " Ave Maria " in composer and conductor Tim Janis 's PBS television special " Celebrate America " and performed in other concerts and TV shows with Janis , who sought her out after seeing her on YouTube . She made various singing appearances around Pennsylvania in 2009 and 2010 .

= = Career = =

= = = David Foster and Prelude to a Dream = = =

Evancho first caught record producer David Foster 's attention in 2009 . After sending a video to him , she was selected for the regional semifinals of his ? Hitman Talent Search Contest ? , finishing as runner @-@ up , and in October 2009 she sang in the " David Foster & Friends " concert at the Prudential Center in Newark , New Jersey .

In November 2009 , Evancho released her independent debut album , Prelude to a Dream . The album featured mainly covers of classical crossover songs such as " Con te partirò " , " The Prayer " , " To Where You Are " , " Concrete Angel " and " Amazing Grace " . It debuted on the Billboard 200 at No. 121 , and at No. 2 on the Billboard Classical Albums chart , in August 2010 , after Evancho 's first performance on America 's Got Talent . Evancho 's parents withdrew the album later in the same month , citing Evancho 's vocal progress since its release . Since Evancho 's success on America 's Got Talent , the album has become a collector 's item .

= = = America 's Got Talent = = =

After two earlier unsuccessful auditions for the show , Evancho was accepted as a contestant on the fifth season of the America 's Got Talent TV show (AGT) by placing first in its 2010 YouTube competition . On August 10 , 2010 , Evancho performed the aria " O mio babbino caro " in the show 's quarter @-@ final round . She received a standing ovation after her performance and was awarded a family trip to Universal Studios Florida for receiving the most fan votes of all the YouTube submissions to the show . Judge Howie Mandel said in his critique that the show sought to " find that one moment , that one gem , that one star from a place we 've never looked before This is the moment . You 're the star . " After Evancho 's performance , commentators queried whether her performance had been lip @-@ synched . On the next evening 's live show , Evancho sang an impromptu voice exercise to demonstrate that the broadcast was of her live voice . In an interview , Mandel addressed the issue : " what people are ... really saying [is] that it 's really too good to be true . You are so perfect and so wonderful that people have never heard a talent like this You 've got to take that as a compliment Even if you don 't love that kind of music , you can 't deny that [it] is perfection . "

Her semifinal performance was " Time to Say Goodbye " , on August 31 , 2010 . She advanced to the Top 10 round where , on September 7 , 2010 , she performed " Pie Jesu " from Andrew Lloyd Webber 's Requiem and was voted into the Final 4 . Pittsburgh leaders declared the following week " Jackie Evancho Week " in appreciation " for her positive representation of our city " showing " poise and determination well beyond her years " . Her final competition performance was of Gounod 's " Ave Maria " on September 14 . The following evening at the AGT season finale , Evancho sang " Time to Say Goodbye " together with guest artist Sarah Brightman ; then Evancho was announced as the runner @-@ up , finishing second to singer Michael Grimm . Many viewers and commentators felt that Evancho should have won , and even Grimm expressed surprise . The show brought Evancho wide exposure to American audiences , as up to 16 million viewers watched her performances each week . The finale show was AGT 's highest @-@ rated episode in three years . Evancho became one of the two most successful AGT alumni . She was a guest on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno a week after the finale , where she sang and gave her first late @-@ night interview with Jay Leno . Evancho was subsequently profiled and interviewed in the 2013 book

Inside AGT : The Untold Stories of America 's Got Talent .

Evancho performed in 10 of the 25 cities in the America 's Got Talent : Live Tour from October 1 to November 5 , 2010 . On October 8 , 2010 , Evancho signed a record deal with SYCO music and Columbia Records . One week later , she performed in Las Vegas with David Foster . From June 2010 until mid @-@ 2011 , Evancho was coached by voice teacher Yvie Burnett , a mezzo @-@ soprano from Scotland , who has worked with many of the singers appearing on AGT . Tim Janis scheduled Evancho to perform in his show at Carnegie Hall in New York City on December 2 , 2010 , where she would have been the venue 's youngest female vocal soloist . During the AGT tour , however , her parents withdrew her from the Carnegie Hall event ; by the time of that event , Evancho had begun making promotional appearances for Columbia Records .

= = = O Holy Night = = =

Evancho 's first release on a major record label was a Columbia Records EP entitled O Holy Night . It was released on November 16 , 2010 and entered the Billboard 200 at No. 2 , making Evancho the top @-@ selling debut artist for 2010 and the youngest solo artist ever to debut in the top 10 . It also launched at No. 1 on Billboard 's Classical Albums chart . It was No. 2 on Billboard 's Holiday Albums Chart . The album sold 239 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . On December 10 , 2010 , the album was certified platinum by the RIAA , shipping in excess of a million copies in the US , making Evancho the youngest solo artist ever to go platinum in the US .

Evancho promoted the album on TV beginning with The Oprah Winfrey Show on October 19 , 2010 , where she sang " Pie Jesu " . Among several other talk shows , QVC appearances and holiday singing appearances , Evancho performed songs from the album and was interviewed on The Today Show and Fox & Friends , The View and Martha Stewart Living . In November 2010 , Evancho sang " O Holy Night " in the My Macy 's Holiday Parade in Pittsburgh and again on NBC 's Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree lighting special , Christmas in Rockefeller Center , where she also duetted with Katherine Jenkins , singing " Silent Night " . Such a duet had been anticipated since Piers Morgan commented on the similar appearance of the two singers . On December 9 , 2010 , Evancho performed at the National Christmas Tree lighting in Washington , D.C. , singing " O Holy Night " , where she met President Obama and his family . Also in December , she returned to the Tonight Show and performed at the 27th annual Disney Parks Christmas Day Parade , on ABC television .

In its 2011 year @-@ end charts (including releases from November 2010) , Billboard ranked O Holy Night at No. 1 on its Classical Albums chart . It also ranked the album as the No. 15 best @-@ selling album of 2011 in the US . O Holy Night also ranked as the No. 31 Canadian Album of 2011 .

= = = Dream with Me = = =

Evancho 's second full @-@ length feature album (her first on a major label) , Dream with Me , produced by David Foster for Sony and Syco Music , was released on June 14 , 2011 . The album debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 chart , reached No. 1 on Billboard 's Classical Albums Chart , and was certified gold by the RIAA . The album also performed well internationally , with Evancho becoming the youngest artist ever to debut in the UK in the top 5 . The album includes 14 tracks ranging from popular songs (" Angel ") to classical arias (" Ombra mai fu ") , and original songs , including the title track , for which Evancho contributed to the lyrics . Evancho sings duets with Barbra Streisand (" Somewhere ") and Susan Boyle (" The Prayer ") . A deluxe edition of Dream with Me available only at the Target website includes four bonus tracks : " Someday " , " Mi Mancherai " , " The Impossible Dream " and " A Time For Us " . Allmusic gave the album 3 @-@ 1 / 2 stars out of a possible five , commenting : " Dream with Me hits all of the right notes , though there are few surprises or big moments to be found ... resulting in a solid " official " debut from a rising star at the dawn of her career . " USA Today rated the album 2 @-@ 1 / 2 stars out of four : " [Evancho 's] sweet , unblemished vocal tone and slow , careful vibrato hardly betray her young age But Dream 's predictable and often bombastic odes to love and faith can undermine the tween 's most

appealing quality : innocence . I 'd have preferred a little less pomp and Puccini and more youthful wonder . "

Evancho promoted the album on talk shows and at concerts in the US and in Toronto . She recorded a solo concert television special for the 2011 PBS Great Performances series that includes nearly the same songs as the album . The special , titled *Dream With Me In Concert* , was the most broadcast program of the year on the PBS network . Evancho was the youngest person ever to have a special on the series . It " became one of the most viewed specials in the 38 @-@ year @-@ history of the Great Performances series [and] raised record amounts of money for PBS stations . " The concert was co @-@ hosted by David Foster , who played the piano in the orchestra for many of the selections , while Conrad Tao played piano and violin , respectively , for two songs . The special was shown on PBS stations beginning in June 2011 and was released as a CD / DVD set in September 2011 , *Dream With Me In Concert* , reaching No. 1 on Billboard 's Top Music Video chart . Allmusic noted : " the concert version ... sounds nearly identical (outside of the waves of applause) to the studio album ... but the accompanying DVD , which features the heavily choreographed performance , as well as an extensive photo gallery and interviews with both Evancho and Foster , should provide enough eye and ear candy to appease fans of the gifted young vocalist until a proper follow @-@ up appears . " The Sun wrote that the " classical crossover set ... showcases the extraordinary beauty of the child 's pipes . "

In July 2011 , the singer began her first solo tour across the United States , to promote the album . It consisted of 18 performances with symphony orchestras , beginning with eight stops in the US during 2011 , including one with her hometown Pittsburgh Opera on October 16 . Evancho made her New York City solo concert debut at Avery Fisher Hall in November 2011 , becoming the youngest person ever to sing a solo concert at Lincoln Center . Her last appearance in 2011 was in Las Vegas on December 29 , 2011 , where Evancho headlined a concert with David Foster and Kenny G , featuring mostly songs from *Dream With Me* . In 2012 , she continued her US tour to promote the album , together with tenor Josh Page , who sang a duet of " The Prayer " with her and performed two solos to break up Evancho 's sets . After a concert in Tokyo in January 2012 with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra , she made seven concert stops from January to March 2012 in California and Utah . Evancho 's three February tour stops constituted the tenth top @-@ grossing tour reported by Billboard for the relevant week . In June 2012 , Evancho concluded the tour with performances on the East Coast .

On its 2011 year @-@ end charts , Billboard ranked *Dream With Me* as the No. 2 best @-@ selling Classical Album for the year and as the No. 45 US album of 2011 . *Dream With Me* was listed on the Billboard 200 for 28 weeks and the Classical Albums chart for a total of 74 weeks . Billboard ranked *Dream With Me In Concert* the No. 21 music video album of 2011 and the No. 16 music video album of 2012 . *Dream With Me In Concert* was ranked on the Billboard.biz Top Music Video chart for 64 weeks . *Dream With Me* , and Foster 's production of the album , are discussed in detail in the 2013 Ph.D. dissertation of Evancho 's uncle , composer Matthew Evancho .

= = = Heavenly Christmas = = =

Evancho 's 2011 Christmas album , *Heavenly Christmas* , has twelve tracks and was produced by Rob Mounsey , who conducts the Orchestra of St. Luke 's on the album . The selections include traditional Christmas carols like " The First Noël " and " O Little Town of Bethlehem " , standards like " I 'll Be Home for Christmas " and " White Christmas " , and newer songs , such as " Walking in the Air " (from the 1982 animated film *The Snowman*) and " Believe " (from the 2004 movie *The Polar Express*) . The album was released on November 1 , 2011 , exclusively at Walmart in the US and at other US retailers in October 2012 .

The album entered the Billboard Classical Albums chart at No. 1 , the Holiday Albums chart at No. 3 , and the Billboard 200 at No. 16 , peaking at No. 11 . It peaked at No. 9 on the Canadian Albums chart . Allmusic 's review gives the album three stars , commenting , " Evancho 's vocals are impressive as always , and the arrangements are mostly tasteful , with only occasional moments of bombast " . The Salt Lake City Tribune rated the album " A- " , writing : " some of us are still taken

aback when we hear such a strong , womanly voice float out of an 11 year @-@ old child Her best offering is the cherubic ' Believe ' . " Christopher John Farley of The Wall Street Journal wrote , " when she sings , she sounds like she ? s channeling a past life , a future self , or possibly an actual angel . "

As with her previous albums , Evancho made talk show appearances on all major television networks to promote Heavenly Christmas , singing " The First Noël " on The View and The Talk , and " Believe " on The Tonight Show . She gave concerts that featured songs from the album in December 2011 in Buffalo , New York ; Atlantic City , New Jersey ; and Pittsburgh , all with duet partner tenor Christopher Dallo . As of January 2012 , more than 300 @,@ 000 copies of Heavenly Christmas had been sold in the US . On its 2011 year @-@ end charts , Billboard ranked Dream With Me as the No. 4 best @-@ selling Classical Album of the year . It ranked the album No. 41 on the 2012 year @-@ end Canadian Albums chart .

= = = Songs from the Silver Screen = = =

Evancho 's fourth full @-@ length album , Songs from the Silver Screen , was released on October 2 , 2012 . The album is composed of 12 songs used in popular films , arranged by Bill Ross . The tracks range from the whimsical (" Pure Imagination " from Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory) to Disney songs (" Can You Feel the Love Tonight " from The Lion King and " I See the Light " from Tangled) to inspirational anthems (" My Heart Will Go On " from Titanic , featuring Joshua Bell , violin) , to romantic standards (" Some Enchanted Evening " from South Pacific) . Other collaborations on the album are " The Summer Knows " from Summer of 42 , featuring Chris Botti , trumpet , and " Come What May " Moulin Rouge ! , featuring The Canadian Tenors . An Allmusic review awarded the album 3 @-@ 1 / 2 stars out of five , stating that the CD " finds Evancho more than up to the task , displaying maturity and poise . "

A PBS Great Performances special called Jackie Evancho : Music of the Movies , filmed at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles , features nearly the same selections as the album . It was directed and co @-@ produced by David Horn and Humberto Gatica , and conducted and arranged by Bill Ross . The special aired on PBS stations beginning on August 11 , 2012 . A review of the special commented that the songs fit Evancho 's classical crossover style .

Evancho began a live 42 @-@ stop tour to promote the album in August 2012 , giving her first solo concert featuring songs from the album in Japan with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra . She continued the tour in the US , appearing first with The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia . The first leg of the tour included concerts in two dozen North American cities between September 2012 and June 2013 . Evancho also appeared on television shows on NBC , ABC , CBS , Fox and CNN in October and November 2012 , where she sang songs from the album and was interviewed . She resumed touring from October 2013 to January 2014 , with appearances in a dozen more cities , and the last six concerts in the series were from April to August 2014 .

The album debuted at No. 7 on the Billboard 200 , No. 1 on the Classical Albums chart and No. 22 on the Canadian Albums chart . The debut made the 12 @-@ year @-@ old the second artist who ever " amassed three top 10 albums [on the Billboard 200] at such a young age . " The album remained on the Billboard 200 for 13 weeks and appeared on the Billboard Classical Albums chart in 72 weeks . Songs from the Silver Screen was the No. 4 Classical Album of 2013 and the No. 36 Classical Album of 2014 .

= = = Awakening = = =

Evancho released her fifth full @-@ length studio album , Awakening , on September 23 , 2014 on Sony Masterworks ' Portrait Records label . Evancho promoted the album with a concert tour that began in November 2014 and continued into 2016 , and a third PBS special based on the album that debuted the same month . The album consists of 12 tracks , including a mix of classical pieces , like Rachmaninoff 's " Vocalise " , the art song " Dormi Jesu " and the Vavilov version of " Ave Maria " ; classical crossover covers of more contemporary pieces like U2 's " With or Without You " , Ennio

Morricone 's " Your Love " , Lara Fabian 's " Je t 'aime " and Within Temptation 's " Memories " ; and several original songs . Walmart offered a deluxe edition with six bonus holiday songs . Evancho 's cover of " My Immortal " by Evanescence was included as a bonus track exclusively on the version of the album sold in Japan .

In June 2014 , Evancho released her first single from the album , a cover of " The Rains of Castamere " from Game of Thrones . A writer for the Orlando Sentinel said of the song that Evancho 's " mature voice sounds stunning . " Evancho released a shadow @-@ art video for the single in July 2014 . She offered a second track , " Think of Me " from The Phantom of the Opera , in July 2014 . A video for the song was released , together with a feature piece on Evancho , by People , in September 2014 . The same month , Evancho released a digital download of a track called " Go Time " promoting Justice clothing stores , which displayed it on their website , made it available for free download to their shoppers , and played it in their stores on the video monitors . In September , Billboard streamed Evancho 's third single from the album , " Your Love " , which became available on the day of the album 's release . A last single and corresponding video from the album of " Ave Maria " was released in November 2014 .

Evancho began her television promotions of the album with a return to America 's Got Talent as a guest artist , singing " Think of Me " at Radio City Music Hall , in September 2014 during the show 's ninth season . Other September television performances included The Today Show , where she sang " Your Love " . Among other television and media appearances , she performed on The Queen Latifah Show and was profiled on the Oprah Winfrey Network , both in October . Evancho made a third PBS special to promote the album : Awakening : Live in Concert . The special was filmed at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and began airing on PBS stations on November 29 , 2014 ; Cheyenne Jackson co @-@ hosts and sings " Say Something " as a duet with Evancho . The special includes all of the songs from Awakening , as well as " My Immortal " , and two additional songs (" Say Something " and " O Mio Babbino Caro ") . Evancho appeared on the Dr. Phil show in December , singing " Ave Maria " .

Her Awakening : Live in Concert tour began in November 2014 . It included stops across the U.S. and one concert in each of Costa Rica and Canada . For this tour , for the first time , Evancho usually used an ensemble of about a dozen live musicians enhancing a pre @-@ recorded soundtrack , although a few stops used a larger orchestra .

Awakening debuted at No. 17 on the Billboard 200 chart and No. 1 on the Billboard Classical Albums chart . This was Evancho 's fifth consecutive release at No. 1 on the Billboard Classical Albums chart . Markos Papadatos of Digital Journal gave Evancho 's album an A rating , calling it " stunning from start to finish thanks to her warm classical vocals . " He called her renditions of the songs " ethereal " , " crystalline " and " haunting " . On its 2014 year @-@ end charts , Billboard ranked Awakening as the No. 11 best @-@ selling Classical Album of the year , and in 2015 ranked it as the No. 3 best @-@ selling Classical Album of the year . The album remained on the Billboard Classical Albums chart for a consecutive 72 weeks .

= = = Other music performances and philanthropy = = =

2009 to 2011

Evancho performed the American national anthem at various events in 2009 and 2010 , including the September 2009 memorial ceremony for the victims of United Flight 93 , the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team 's 2010 home opener , and the NHL Winter Classic on January 1 , 2011 , at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh . In January 2011 , she performed Nella Fantasia at the Beverly Hills Chefs for Seals event in support of efforts to end the annual Canadian seal hunt . The event was sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States , of which Evancho is the ambassador for Mission : Humane , a program that encourages children to help protect animals . In February 2011 , she performed her first full @-@ length concert as a headliner , in Houston Texas with the Houston Chamber Choir . In March , she sang at the 2011 Festival of the Arts Boca , along with young stars of the Metropolitan Opera . Evancho sang at Muhammad Ali 's " Celebrity Fight Night " charity event to battle Parkinson 's Disease , in Phoenix , Arizona , later the same month . She also sang the

introduction to " Somewhere Over the Rainbow " on Oprah 's farewell special broadcast on May 25 , 2011 .

In June 2011 , Evancho performed as a guest artist at the season finale of Britain 's Got Talent . After touring over the summer , in September , she returned to America 's Got Talent as a guest artist , performing " Nessun dorma " during the finale of the sixth season . She recorded a duet with Tony Bennett of the song " When You Wish upon a Star " , which appears as a bonus track on the deluxe edition of his 2011 album Duets II and she lent her voice to a " happy birthday " tribute to Bennett as part of a 2011 Target advertisement . She also sings " Pie Jesu " on the 2011 album Hit Man Returns : David Foster & Friends (2011) . The album was recorded live in Las Vegas in October 2010 , and PBS broadcast the concert , including Evancho 's " Pie Jesu " and " O Mio Babbino Caro " , beginning in March 2011 . Her recording of " Silent Night " is included in the 2011 Sony album 30 Stars of Christmas . She sang in two David Foster & Friends concerts in October 2011 , in Tokyo , where she also appeared in several Japanese television interviews .

2012 to 2013

Evancho returned to Japan to participate in the newly reopened Bunkamura Orchard Concert Hall 's program , called " Musical meets Symphony " , and to give her own concert there with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra in January 2012 . While there , she sang for the Imperial family . In February 2012 , Evancho sang at the US National Prayer Breakfast before President Obama and congressional and international leaders . In April , Evancho appeared on Dancing with the Stars . She sang " Ave Maria " and " Dark Waltz " to accompany two dance teams . She performed as a guest star on the May 2012 season finale of Canada 's Got Talent . In June , she sang in Russia at the opening ceremonies of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum . The outdoor concert in Palace Square , billed as a " Bouquet of Opera " , also featured Dmitry Hvorostovsky and Sumi Jo .

Evancho sang in August 2012 at the annual So The World May Hear Gala to benefit the Starkey Hearing Foundation , which supplies hearing aids to people in need in the US and other countries . She sang in Hiroshima , Japan , later in August , in the " Peace for World " concert , with Christopher Cross and others . At the end of the month , Evancho performed together with Tony Bennett at the Ironstone Amphitheatre in Murphys , California , where she was accompanied by members of the Stockton Symphony . In October , she performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as part of the opening celebrations for Klyde Warren Park in Dallas , Texas . In late 2012 , Evancho partnered with WhyHunger , philosophy.com and Sephora to offer a bath product , to believe , inspired by the lyrics of her song " To Believe " . All net proceeds from the product support WhyHunger 's efforts to end world hunger .

Evancho participated with over 200 Cirque du Soleil performers and others at Bellagio in Las Vegas in March 2013 in the event " One Night for One Drop on World Water Day " . Evancho 's water and aerial performances benefited the One Drop Foundation 's worldwide clean water access and education programs . Robin Leach wrote : " 12 @-@ year @-@ old superstar singer Jackie [Evancho] stole the night with her " Bridge Over Troubled Water " sung barefoot in the water of the giant stage alone except for the background pianist . She also dominated the fantastic finale flying in as an angel on a harness from the theater rooftop . " The following month , she sang in concert in Taiwan with José Carreras . She performed another concert with Tony Bennett in May , in Alpharetta , Georgia , with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra . Of performing with Evancho , Bennett said : " She ? s just wonderful ... my own reaction is , ' How the heck am I going to follow that ? ' " On July 4 , Evancho was a featured performer in the televised annual show A Capitol Fourth , singing the national anthem and " Can You Feel the Love Tonight " , from her album Songs from the Silver Screen .

Evancho headlined a benefit concert , called Jackie Evancho & Friends : We are Hope , at the LDS Conference Center in Salt Lake City in November 2013 , for the Muzart World Foundation 's programs to encourage the teaching of music and art in US public schools . She sang the US national anthem on Thanksgiving Day , at the Green Bay Packers vs. Detroit Lions football game , broadcast on Fox . She headlined a Christmas @-@ themed benefit concert at Carnegie Hall produced by her old mentor , Tim Janis , and featuring James Galway , in December .

2014 to present

Evancho was the performer for Susan G. Komen 's Perfect Pink Party in Palm Beach , Florida , in January 2014 , to benefit breast cancer research . In March , Evancho headlined a concert with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario , California , to benefit the Loma Linda University Children 's Hospital . She appeared in May 2014 at the annual gala to benefit Chicago 's WTTW television and WFMT radio stations and in Washington DC at the 2014 National Memorial Day Concert , broadcast by PBS . Evancho performed at the Songwriters Hall of Fame 2014 awards dinner in June singing " Over the Rainbow " . In September 2014 , Evancho performed at a David Foster Foundation concert to benefit families with children who need a major organ transplant . In November , she sang a " touching rendition " of John Lennon 's song " Imagine " at the United Nations to introduce the UNICEF # Imagine program . Also in 2014 , Evancho recorded the Leonard Cohen song " Hallelujah " with Peter Hollens for his self @-@ titled album , and she released a video for the song . A reviewer for Mashable called it " a gift from the a cappella gods " .

In 2015 , Evancho made a video to support the Humane Society 's fight against seal hunting . In April of that year , she joined Andrea Bocelli as a guest in his concert in Thailand . The English @-@ language newspaper The Nation commented : " If there 's anything on Earth close to the sound of an angel , it must be the heavenly voice of Jackie Evancho " . In August 2015 , she participated in a " David Foster and Friends " concert in Malaysia . The same month , she released a new video and corresponding video covering Ed Sheeran 's , " All of the Stars " , supporting acceptance of LGBT people . In September , Evancho participated in a concert with David Foster and Andrea Bocelli in Forte dei Marmi , Italy , to benefit the Celebrity Fight Night Foundation . The same month , she performed at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia as part of the celebration of Pope Francis 's visit to that city . In October 2015 , Evancho performed at a benefit for the Global Lyme Alliance in New York City . In December , she sang the US national anthem at the Pittsburgh Steelers game against the Indianapolis Colts and released the first single on her own JE Touring label , a cover of Taylor Swift 's " Safe & Sound " . A video of the single was also released . The single is expected to be part of Evancho 's upcoming 2016 album .

In January 2016 , Evancho appeared at the Mending Broken Hearts With Hope luncheon to benefit The Shelter for Abused Women & Children in Naples , Florida . The same month , she released another single and video on JME Touring , a cover of Sam Smith 's " Writing 's on the Wall " . This was followed by another single and video in March , Skylar Grey 's " Coming Home (Part II) " . In April Evancho sang the national anthem at the Pittsburgh Pirates ' 2016 opening home game . She also released an original pop song by Peter Zizzo , " Apocalypse " , which is expected to be included on her upcoming 2016 album . Billboard wrote that she " has found a brand @-@ new sound . The 16 @-@ year @-@ old singer ... is taking a step outside the classical world that made her famous " , but Evancho told Billboard : " I 'm not going to get rid of my classical voice , because that 's my roots , that 's what I love the most . " She also released a video of the song and performed it on the Today show and Live ! with Kelly and Michael later in April .

Evancho provided the entertainment at the 2016 Project Sunshine benefit gala in May and returned to Washington , DC , to participate in the 2016 broadcast and live performance of A Capitol Fourth . She headlined a concert at Festa Italiana at the BMO Harris Pavilion in Milwaukee , Wisconsin , later in July 2016 . She expects to perform more concerts in the Northeast US in November .

== = Acting and modeling == =

Evancho had some early theatre experience performing in High School Musical with Pittsburgh Musical Theater in 2007 and musical theatre versions of A Christmas Carol and Little Red Riding Hood , in which she played the title role in 2009 . She also appeared briefly as an extra in the 2010 film She 's Out of My League . Her first featured television appearance was in the 2011 episode " Back To Max " from the Disney Channel series Wizards of Waverly Place where she sang " America the Beautiful " to work off school detention .

Evancho appears in the feature film The Company You Keep , a political thriller that premiered at

film festivals in 2012 . The film played in foreign markets and in the US beginning in April 2013 . Evancho played Isabel , the eleven @-@ year @-@ old daughter of a widowed attorney turned fugitive , Jim Grant , played by Robert Redford , who also directed the film . When Grant 's true identity as a former Weather Underground militant is uncovered , he is pursued across the US by the FBI and by an ambitious journalist (Shia LaBeouf) . To be reunited with Isabel , Grant must clear his name . Jon Weisman wrote that Evancho " showed she 's more than a singing prodigy with her earnest sweetness as the daughter of Robert Redford 's character " . Redford cast Evancho only days before filming began . Evancho said in 2012 : " I don 't think I want to act full time . I think I might like to do something with a Disney special or make a movie once in a while that would give me enough time to sing and record , but that 's about it . "

Evancho modelled for GUESS Kids in 2012 and for Justice Girls Clothing in 2014 , and she occasionally has appeared in other product advertisements and public service announcements .

= = Reception and reputation = =

= = = Earliest assessments = = =

After Evancho 's performance of " Ave Maria " on America 's Got Talent , judge Piers Morgan said : " I have never seen an act , on this show or the British show or any of the other talent shows in the world , with more potential than Jackie Evancho . That was perfection . Perfection ! " Christopher Hahn , General Director of the Pittsburgh Opera , commented of Evancho 's performance of " O mio babbino caro " on AGT , " It 's very unusual for a young child to have a voice that sounded so rich and developed . " " I thought she was just lovely , sweetly compelling " , said Hahn . " It is quite unusual to hear a young girl with that level of warmth and roundness . " Hahn particularly praised Evancho 's phrasing .

Composer Tim Janis commented in 2010 that Evancho " takes a classical piece and makes it friendly and accessible Her voice is so pure and natural , there 's no flaw in it . People say ' I can hear her potential coming , ' but no , it 's here , it 's now . " Critic Tim Page disagreed , writing of Evancho 's AGT performance of " O mio babbino caro " that Evancho " has many years of work ahead of her before she becomes any sort of musician . " Claudia Benack , Assistant Professor of musical theatre at Carnegie Mellon University , said that Evancho " has an unusually adult feel for the repertoire She sings to the important part of the phrase , and then backs off . That 's instinctual She takes breaths sometimes where an adult would not , but that 's just because she 's young and little She sings from the healthy part of her voice . " Doctor Clark Rosen , director of the University of Pittsburgh Voice Center , commented that Evancho 's talent is made possible by how her brain coordinates her body for singing : " Very few people are gifted enough to have that naturally , or with subsequent learning , to create a voice we 'd love to hear . "

A review of Evancho 's 2011 concert with Pittsburgh Opera noted that " what was most impressive ... was how musical she was ... her focus on phrasing and an understanding of the emotion in the ... musical numbers . " The review also praised " her reverberant chest voice [and] her head voice , hitting the highest register with intonation and purity " and echoed Janis : " That she continues to be greeted with skepticism is unfair Yes , the concert showed that Jackie is a young girl , yet one with artistry to be appreciated now without debating about what her future might hold . " Antony Walker , Pittsburgh Opera 's music director , said : " she has a very sincere way of singing Her voice has a lovely quality to it . It 's very simple singing but it comes from the heart . You rarely hear someone so young with such a beautiful voice " . Nekesa Mumbi Moody , writing for Associated Press and ABC News , commented that , although " there is a youthful quality in Jackie 's voice , it 's hardly childlike : It 's a soprano that deftly traverses the musical scales " . Bob Boilen of NPR wrote , " I simply couldn 't believe my eyes and ears . Seeing Jackie Evancho sing for the first time is nearly beyond belief . " He called her voice " beyond @-@ beautiful " when she performed " for a stunned audience at the NPR Music offices . She clearly is a very happy girl with an amazing musical gift . " A review of her 2011 Sun Valley concert stated that " Evancho transported [her audience] with pure

, joyous , unaffected notes " .

The Los Angeles Times commented in June 2011 , reviewing Dream With Me , that " her voice has matured quite a lot over the past 10 months . " The paper continued , " what makes us feel like she will survive the journey from child star to adult performer is her magnificent sense of pitch , her natural ability to shape phrases and the ease with which she performs . This is what makes her a joy to listen to . Since she 's still a kid , and we all have affectations when we 're learning , we 'll pretend we didn 't notice the Brightman arms . " In reviewing her 2011 Pittsburgh Opera concert , the Pittsburgh Tribune @-@ Review called her voice " beautifully in tune and well supported Evancho 's sincerity of delivery was affecting " . A reviewer from The New York Times wrote of her 2011 Avery Fisher Hall concert that : " In the first half of the show Ms. Evancho often receded , but toward the end of the night she found purpose , delivering ' A Time for Us ' with punch , and closing out Sarah McLachlan 's ' Angel ' with what felt like real yearning " . The Wall Street Journal called Evancho 's 2011 performance of the song " Angel " on the Tonight Show " moving " .

= = = 2012 and later = = =

A San Francisco Chronicle review of a 2012 concert judged her singing " an impressive thing to witness , and Evancho 's technical precision and enormous range only serve to make it seem less fluky . The girl can sing " , but felt that " every selection sounded alike " . Another reviewer wrote that Evancho " displayed her famous combo of poise and articulation " , but he noted " the burden of being a kid soprano , a true phenomenon . People pay a lot to see you and orchestras line up to get you on their stage . But still folks wonder if you really comprehend your life ; if you shouldn 't be home ... eating ice cream instead of in Denver And yet they rise to their feet , yet again , as you finish . " A Naples Daily News review stated : " Her poise . Her control . Her range Her voice and her performance exhausted all of the superlatives in the dictionary . " In 2013 , a reviewer commented : " Her pure and well @-@ formed vowel sounds touched the hearts of everyone at the concert . Every year her voice seems to get better and better . " A reviewer for The Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution called Evancho " awesomely talented " and " technically flawless " , commenting : " Evancho possesses the voice of an angel . " The Buffalo News reporter wrote : " there is a poignancy to the sound of this mature voice coming out of this child . Her high notes are a joy . "

In 2014 , a reviewer for Billboard magazine commented : " Evancho 's stratospheric vocals are of course impressive for someone her age , though pipes like this are incredible for just about anyone . " in 2015 , the reviewer for Digital Journal wrote : " The control she displays over her voice is tremendous , and she tackles the high notes ... effortlessly , showcasing her angelic vocals and piercing pipes Evancho 's voice is an eighth world wonder " . Robin Leach wrote of Evancho 's January 2015 concert in Las Vegas : " She 's still got the voice of an angel . It 's remarkable , and her power is growing as she grows up . [She] had the audience on its feet with wild applause at the end of every song " . A review of a later 2015 concert in The Washington Post called her voice a " bell @-@ like instrument , devoid of any messy human emotions [with] an ethereally floating tone But imagine what Evancho can achieve once she stops obsessing over just sounding pretty , and actually listens to the words she 's singing . " In the 2016 book , Voicing Girlhood in Popular Music : Performance , Authority , Authenticity , a chapter by Dana Gorzelany @-@ Mostak , Assistant Professor of Music at Georgia College , is devoted to analyzing Evancho 's career and influence . Gorzelany @-@ Mostak writes :

With her embodiment of both sheltered innocence ... and hyperability ... [Evancho] expands the fan base for classical crossover , dethrones elitist conceptions of opera , challenges conventions of the classical canon , and forges a new path for the next cohort of girl performers who have the courage to follow in her footsteps .

= = = Honors = = =

Evancho appeared on the National League of Junior Cotillions ' list of " Ten Best @-@ Mannered People of 2011 " for " demonstrating humility and politeness as a young performer . " She was

honored on April 13 , 2012 by the Senator John Heinz History Center at its 20th Annual History Makers Award Dinner as one of five " distinguished Pittsburghers ... recognized for their exceptional contributions to the history of Western Pennsylvania , the nation , and the world " . Evancho was the youngest person ever to be so honored . The Kean Quest Talent Search , since 2011 , has given an annual " Jackie Evancho Award " to a contestant who " exemplifies courage and motivation and pushes through to follow their dreams . " In both 2011 and 2012 , Billboard magazine named Evancho to its list of " 21 Under 21 : Music 's Hottest Minors " .

= = Discography = =

Billboard ranked Evancho the No. 1 Classical Albums Artist of 2011 , as she released three of the top four albums on the Billboard 2011 year @-@ end Classical Albums chart . Billboard also ranked her as the No. 10 Billboard 200 Artist of 2011 , and the No. 3 Internet Albums Artist . Billboard ranked Evancho the No. 2 Classical Albums Artist of 2012 , as three of her albums ranked in the top seven albums on the Billboard 2012 year @-@ end Classical Albums chart . Billboard also ranked her as the No. 37 Billboard 200 Artist of 2012 .

Billboard ranked Evancho the No. 5 Classical Albums Artist of 2013 , even though she did not release any new albums during the year . Evancho 's 2014 album Awakening was Evancho 's fifth consecutive release at No. 1 on the Billboard Classical Albums chart . Billboard ranked Evancho the No. 7 Classical Albums Artist of 2014 and the No. 4 Classical Albums artist of 2015 , as Awakening was the No. 3 classical album of 2015 .