

NICK'S GOT TALENT

Student out to wow Cowell and Co on TV show



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Former Lutterworth College student Nick Bairstow, above, and performing with Out of the Blue Britain's Got Talent

Singing in the live semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent is a long way from the silent libraries and dreaming spires of Oxford University.

But that's what Cosby student Nick Bairstow will be doing tonight, when he competes for a place in the finals of the ITV talent show with acapella group Out of the Blue.

He is among the 15 Oxford and Oxford Brookes university students in the choir hoping to impress music mogul Simon Cowell and his fellow judges.

They have already received a standing ovation for their rendition of Lady Gaga's Poker Face during the audition stage of the contest.

The 19-year-old said: "One of our group decided it would be a fun joke to enter Britain's Got Talent but we didn't really think about what could happen if we got

by **FIONA DRYDEN**
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through. The whole experience has been amazing - it's something we'll remember forever. We were on tour in America at Easter when we got a phone call to tell us we were through to the semi-finals.

"It was great to be together when we got the news, and the support we're getting from friends and family is amazing.

"When we walked on for the audition in our suits I think everyone thought we might be a bit dull but when we launched into a Lady Gaga number it made a huge difference."

Nick remains tight-lipped about what song the group will perform tonight.

His parents, Rachel and Martin, will be in the audience and his sister Jo will watch from her university digs, also in Oxford.

Nick said: "The audience get to vote but the final say lies with the judges."

If Out of the Blue wins the entire competition, they will perform at the Royal Variety Show later in the year and clinch prize money of £100,000.

The group, whose ages range from 18 to 23, have pledged to give any cash they win to charity, including a children's hospice in Oxford.

The former Lutterworth College student also studied at Lutterworth Youth Theatre Academy in his spare time until he was 16.

He returned to teach there himself during the summer holidays after finishing the first year of his music degree.

Bradley Woodward, principal of Lutterworth Youth Theatre Academy, said: "Nick was an extraordinary student and has been a fantastic role model for the children during the summer holidays when he returns to help teach.

"He's got great confidence and is very personable. We'll be rooting for him all the way."

The show starts on ITV1 tonight at 7.30pm.



TOP JUDGE: Simon Cowell