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## LOCAL

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

### First a tweet, now an invite Gaga to city girl: Join me onstage

By: Lindsey Wiebe  
Posted: 02/19/2011 1:00 AM | Comments: 11

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Overnight sensation Maria Aragon talks to the news media at Hot 103 radio Friday after Lady Gaga invited her to Toronto to sing a duet.

Maria Aragon is about to get started on the coolest homework of her life.

The 10-year-old YouTube sensation spoke with her idol, pop star Lady Gaga on Friday afternoon, culminating in a request to perform a duet at a concert next month in Toronto.

#### Young singer stirs up frenzy

Call it Maria Mania.

The 10-year-old would-be pop singer had four mentions on YouTube's main page Friday, as the most-viewed, top-favoured, top-trending and most popular video in the music category on the website.

Since Lady Gaga's Twitter tweet, Maria has been the subject of hundreds of online articles and blog posts worldwide and has been featured on ET Canada, E Canada Now and Access Hollywood, among other outlets.

The student at Isaac Brock School is also a Twitter sensation, with a huge push to get the young performer on Ellen DeGeneres' talk show -- spurred on by a supportive tweet from Ellen herself Thursday.

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Maria wouldn't be first to find fame after discovery online

The Grade 5 student at Isaac Brock School was overcome with emotion as she had a phone conversation with Gaga herself from the studios of radio station Hot 103 FM.

"I didn't expect Lady Gaga to talk to me. It was totally overwhelming," she said shortly afterwards.

The crying, it appears, was mutual.

"Not only do you have such a beautiful voice and you are so joyful to watch, but every once in a while, whether people believe it or not, I have a very bad day," Lady Gaga told Maria over the phone. "I was not having such a good day and when (entertainment blogger Perez Hilton) sent me the video of you singing *Born This Way*, I was so overjoyed that I began to cry. Maybe you're just going to have to come on stage with me and sing that song."

Maria said the offer to sing with her idol caught her completely by surprise.

"(Asking me to sing a duet) makes me feel very talented. It's crazy," she said.

Maria has become an overnight sensation on YouTube with the video of her singing *Born This Way* garnering more than 2.9 million views by Friday evening.

It went viral after an enthusiastic Twitter message from Lady Gaga to her eight million followers.

"Can't stop crying watching this," her message read. "This is why I make music. She is the future."

Maria, who has been singing since she was three, said she has even thought about pursuing a record deal.

"If people want to hear songs that I might write, sure. It's really up to my family," she said.

Her sister, Linger, 22, said throughout the two-day whirlwind, Maria remains a 10-year-old kid, still wanting to go to school, do her homework and play with her friends.

"We have her best interests at heart. We want to make her famous but keep her grounded and keep her humble," she said. "I'm very proud of her. Even though she's my younger sister, I look up to her."

Maria had planned to fly to Toronto to perform in studio on Toronto's Virgin Radio 99.9 FM on Friday morning, but the foul weather in Winnipeg prevented her from making it there, so they chatted with her by phone instead.

Maria made a visit to the Hot 103 studios Thursday for a special interview and performance with DJ Ace Burpee, who picked her up from school in a stretch limo. When she was dropped back off at school in the afternoon, her classmates went wild.

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Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition February 19, 2011 A3

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POSTED BY: **calliesmum**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 7:42 PM

What an amazing opportunity to be recognized for her talent from one of those that is widely recognized with a great voice. Maria, you are beautiful and I HAVE watched your video's and you have an AMAZING voice and I hope your family and faith can keep you grounded. You are on your way...

[2](#) [0](#) [REPORT ABUSIVE COMMENT](#)

POSTED BY: **winnipeg2**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 7:32 PM

who really care if she's not the next Justin Bieber, but this is her time to shine! Way to go Maria!!!

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POSTED BY: **brown1**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 7:26 PM

Congratulations Maria and all the best. Everyone is rooting for you!(except for GetReal who sounds very jealous)

Can wait to hear you and Lady Gaga sing together.

Thumbs Up!

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POSTED BY: **whosays**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 7:14 PM

What I would love to know is how the CBC can afford to have two employees at the same press conference. Side by side...RECORDING THE SAME AUDIO!!!

In 2011....THAT'S your tax dollars at work, folks!!

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POSTED BY: **SoapyBaxter**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 6:43 PM

Were proud of you Maria your a wonderful talent.Thumbs up everyone it's the only choice.

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POSTED BY: **BigBlueMomma**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 1:19 PM

Wow, nice GetReal - she is a child - and maybe she won't be a superstar, maybe she will be. Who knows. But at least she's positive. And has 5.5 million views and counting - all you got is WFP online and a thumbs down to boot!

[4](#) [0](#) [REPORT ABUSIVE COMMENT](#)

POSTED BY: **Sarah13**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 1:06 PM

I think everyone just needs to be happy that Maria is experiencing something that is clearly so special to her. No matter what happens from here, this little girl will be able to draw strength and confidence from the experience for years to come.

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POSTED BY: **GetReal**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 12:04 PM

Have you listened to the rest of her youtubes? Bunch of hype. I realize she's only 10, but another Justin Bieber she won't be. Sorry.

[1](#) [12](#) [REPORT ABUSIVE COMMENT](#)

POSTED BY: **Incongruent1**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 10:25 AM

She's about to be "Bieberized" !

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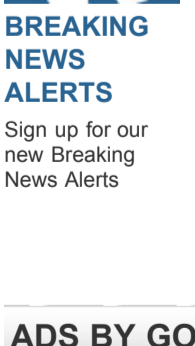
POSTED BY: **inxoc**  
FEBRUARY 19, 2011 AT 7:41 AM

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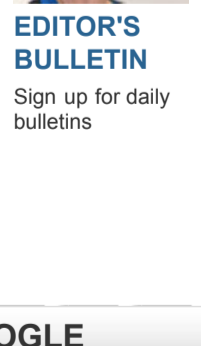
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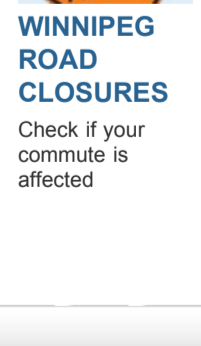
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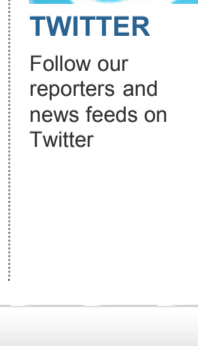
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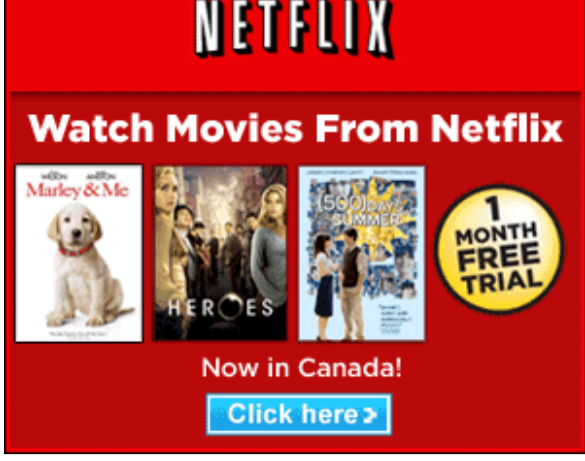
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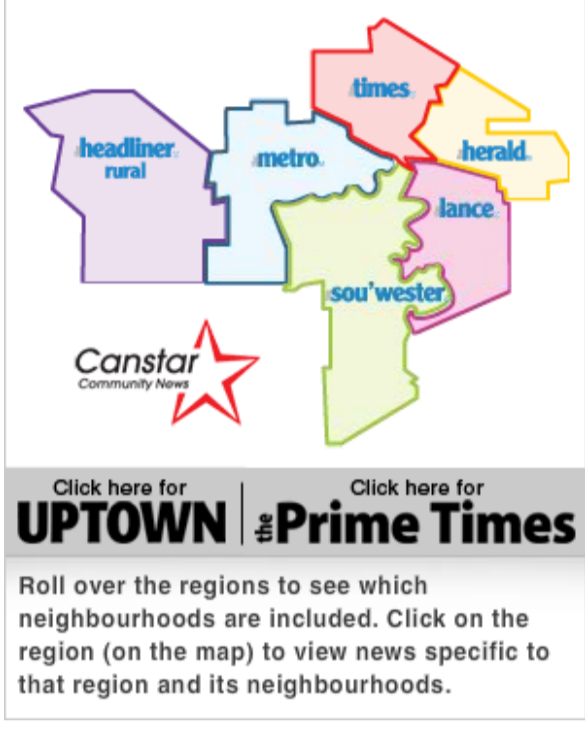
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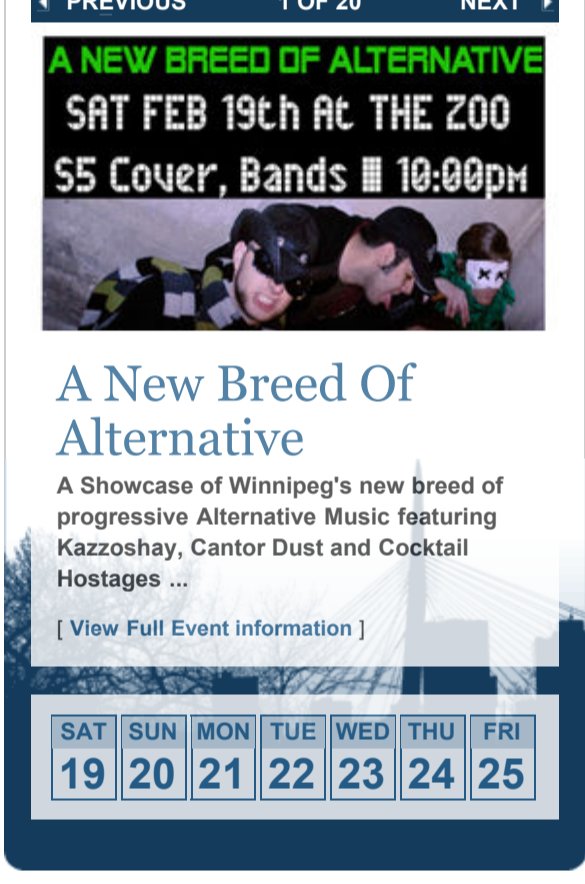
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