

NKM

Strangford students are music video stars

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Strangford College students take a break from making a music video to pose with Belfast Lord Mayor, Councillor Jim Rogers.

A music video made by students of Strangford College with a Los Angeles singer/songwriter was released last week on the Internet.

Students from the Carrowdore college star in the music video of 'Get Up,' by Awakening Queen Maebh, with proceeds benefiting integrated education.

Religious Education teacher Leah McBride and drama teacher Richard Gray, along with two photography students from the South Eastern Regional College — formerly North Down and Ards Institute — accompanied the students on a walking

tour that included stops The Big Fish, Queens University, Waterfront Hall, City Hall and Angel of Thanksgiving Square. The group also took part in a photo session with Belfast Lord Mayor, Councillor Jim Rogers.

Students gave a performance designed to re-enact the troubles, and the transition to a peaceful society, with the images re-arranged for the video.

'Get Up' was written and recorded by Los Angeles-based singer/songwriter Elizabeth Pendleton as part of her music project Awakening Queen Maebh, following a visit to Northern Ireland in 2002.

The optimistic take on Northern Ireland's transformation has been translated into Irish, enjoyed airplay on both sides of the Atlantic and was recently selected by Kid Antrim Music to be part of a compilation CD due out next January.

Ten percent of all proceeds from sales of Awakening Queen Maebh's music will be donated to integrated education, via the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and all proceeds from the video is being donated to NICIE. The video has already received over 1,000 hits.

Michael Wardlow, Chief Executive of NICIE,

commented: "This video is an excellent presentation, combining a superb song with excellent photography and student performances set against well known backdrops of Belfast. Elizabeth's passion for integration comes through in her wonderful, soulful singing, as well as her lyrics, and I am privileged that she has chosen integrated schools as a cause close to her heart. Congratulations to all involved in what is an excellent project."

2007 is a significant year for integrated education as it marks both the 25th anniversary of the opening of the first integrated school, Lagan

Integrated College in Belfast, and the tenth anniversary of Strangford Integrated College.

Strangford principal, Alan Dalton, added: "As a school we are pleased to commemorate our tenth anniversary by involvement with such a unique and creative project. The song has already achieved considerable success and we are truly honoured that our students had the opportunity to showcase their photographic talent in the accompanying music video."

To view the video, visit: <http://myspacetv.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoid=21842230>