Ruby in school spectacular

WHAT began as trying out something new has resulted in a local secondary school student being recognised as one of the state's best young musicians.

Ruby Charteris, currently in year eight at Sale College, picked up a bassoon for the first time 18 months ago "for something different".

Now Ruby will be performing in the position of second bassoon in the student orchestra at the annual Shine On State School Spectacular, where 2500 state school music and drama students from across Victoria will perform at Melbourne's Hisense Arena next week.

Ruby said she decided to pick up the bassoon, a woodwind instrument, because it was different to the mainstream instruments chosen by most of her peers.

"I'd tried out all these random instruments, like the French horn, clarinet and euphonium when I picked up the bassoon," she explained.

"I'd only ever really heard of it before because my aunty plays it.

"I wanted a bit of a change and to do something a bit different, so I kind of picked it out of the blue."

When she heard about Shine On 2010, Ruby said she never anticipated to make it into the student orchestra, considering she had been playing for less than two years.

"I was meant to be grade five, but I'm only grade two," she said.

"I was the only person who actually tried out for it, though, so I got the spot pretty easily."

Although Shine On is still a week away, to be held on September 18 and 19, Ruby said the experience so far had been amazing.

"I've already met so many new people, and they're all like me, they're really into their schoolwork and music," she beamed.

"I've made so many new friends already.

"I just love all the people there; I really can't wait for it! I'm getting really pumped up for it."

Ruby urged everyone to tune in and watch Shine On 2010 on Channel 7 in October, to help bolster the popularity of the show.

"People need to watch it when it's on TV, because if we get plenty of viewers it'll help to keep it going and possibly make it happen once a year, not once every two years like it is now," she said.