



Opera diva in training

CHRISTMAS carols are a bit like the national anthem for performers . . . you don't want to muck up the words. Runner-up in the ABC surprise hit TV show *Operatunity Oz*, **Emily Burke**, pictured right, is in Adelaide this weekend to perform in the Christmas Proms at the Festival Theatre.

The sing-along family event featuring fave Christmas Carols, including *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

"I hope I get the verse with the turtle doves," Emily laughs, "because it's the only one I know."

"Actually, how many turtle doves are there?"

Hmmm, that's not a good start.

Emily has shot to fame courtesy of the ABC's opera version of *Australian Idol*.

She was in a draw with eventual winner **David Parkin**, but lost on a count back.

"Not that I'm bitter," she chuckles.

Just think, if she'd won *Oz Idol*, she not only would have scored a lucrative recording deal but a new car too.

"I don't think the ABC had quite the budget Channel 10 did for *Idol*," she says.

She's just happy more Australians got a feel for opera through the show, although just once, she would like to throw a diva-style tantrum.

"I think maybe I should get a few more runs on the board . . . then I'll have a diva hissy fit," she laughs. "What would I demand? Peeled grapes, Veuve (Clicquot)? Yeah, I might work on that."

She's only kidding. We think.

Emily will be performing tonight and tomorrow night alongside **Timothy Sexton**, stars of the upcoming *The Pirates of Penzance* show, **Dennis Olsen** and **Johanna Allen** and cabaret gals *Gentlemen Prefer Curves*. Tickets are available from Bass.

