

Megan Corkrey has been singing her heart out on the show



Divorced mom's SECRET TRAGEDY

Aunt going broke battling deadly illness

As she competes on "American Idol," contestant Megan Corkrey is hiding a secret tragedy – her beloved aunt is locked in a life-and-death struggle against a deadly affliction and economic ruin.

Megan – the 22-year-old tattooed, divorced mom of a 2-year-old – awed "Idol" judges with her Salt Lake City audition and continues to sing her heart out on the hit FOX show.

Meanwhile, her aunt Jennifer Corkrey O'Hara is in constant pain and often loses her sight after enduring 11 operations to relieve intracranial hypertension, caused by a buildup of cerebral spinal fluid. Megan is very close to her aunt Jenn, who has been one of the singer's closest confidantes.

"Jenn copes with chronic pain and she goes blind for a while every day. When her

sight goes out, we never know if it will come back," said her husband Brendan, a machinist who's been unemployed since being laid off in October.

"It's been rough. We're making it, but just barely. I have insurance for now, but it costs \$615 a month and unemployment is only \$1,600 a month."

Brendan and Jenn got married in February 2006 and were honeymooning in Hawaii when she began having trouble with

her eyesight. Back home in Sonoma, Calif., a spinal tap revealed the increased pressure on her brain.

Things got so tight that they started a Web site, www.corkrey.com, to raise money to help out, and have held various fundraising events.

"Megan was devastated when she learned about Jenn's physical condition," said Brendan.

"Thank God Jenn had her eyesight on the night that Megan was on 'Idol.' We wish her every success on the show. We'll be rooting for her!"

by LARRY HALEY
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A Web site was started to help raise money

Teacher's wife gave blind piano player

NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Scott MacIntyre alive & well after she donates one of her kidneys

STANDOUT "American Idol" contestant Scott MacIntyre overcame blindness to become an accomplished performer – but he could not have done it without an incredible gift from Patricia Cosand, his piano teacher's wife.

When Scott was struck down by kidney disease, Patricia gave him one of her kidneys, The ENQUIRER has learned.

"There was a need, and Patricia decided that it was something she should do and nobody else," her husband Walter Cosand, professor of music at Arizona State University, told The ENQUIRER.

Scott, 23, was born with an inherited condition called Leber's congenital amaurosis. He has a very narrow field of vision. "It's like looking through a straw at the world," Scott said.

Despite his affliction, he started playing piano at 3. He is so intelligent that he entered Arizona State University at 14, studying piano under Professor Cosand and getting to know his wife Patricia, an accomplished violinist.

When Scott graduated at 19, he won prestigious Fulbright and Marshall scholarships to study abroad and was set to get his master's degree in London. But when he took a medical exam



Ryan Seacrest wishes Scott well. His professor Walter Cosand's Web site (below)



required by scholarship officials – his world came crashing down.

"The same week I was in all these ceremonial things that were very special to me, I received the news that I had

kidney failure, and it was in the end stage," said Scott.

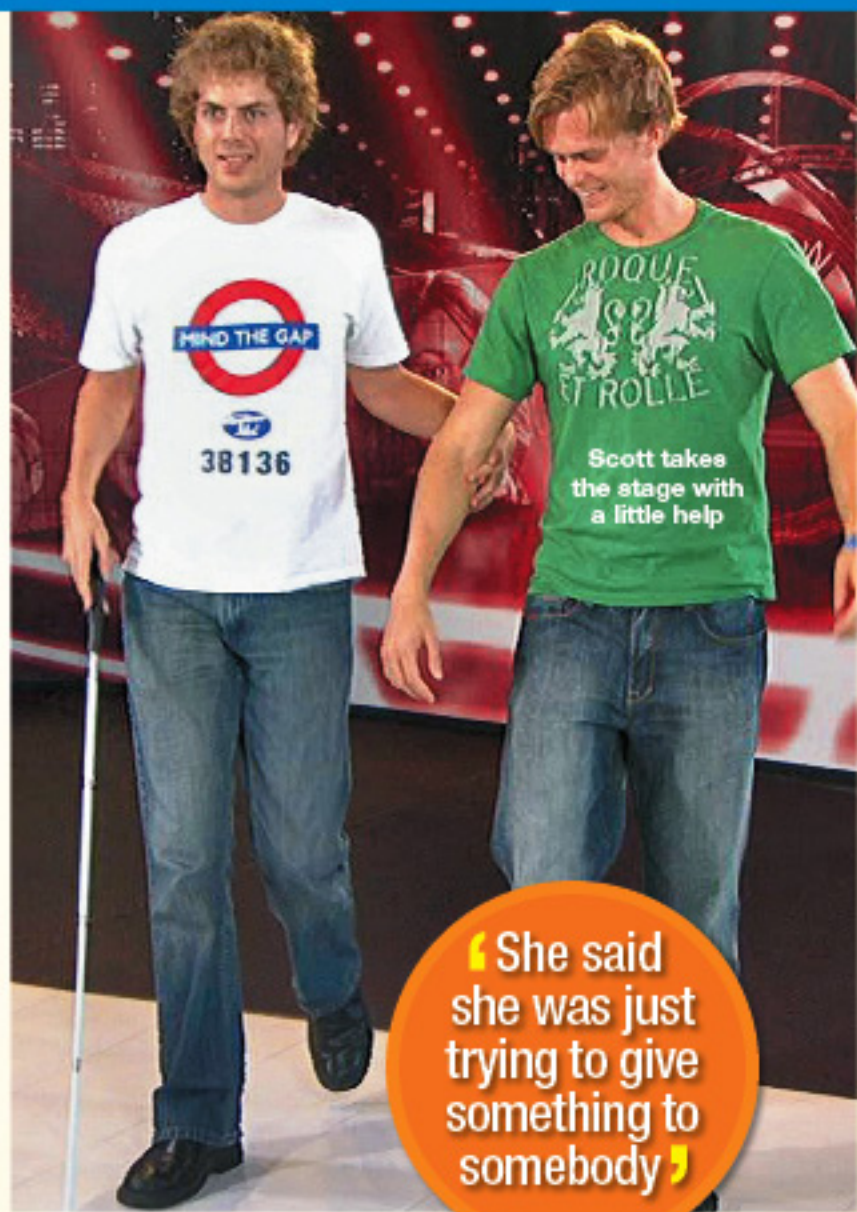
"I would have never known about it if it wasn't for the scholarship. They required a lot of extensive blood testing. This one red flag popped up.

"I didn't feel anything different at that point, probably because I was young.

"I went to London knowing that, and the condition looked stable enough even though it was very far progressed. The doctors said go ahead and go, and we'll monitor it."

Scott got his master's from London's Royal College of Music. But when he

CAN IDOL' CONTESTANTS



“She said she was just trying to give something to somebody”

came home in 2006, the kidney disease had gotten much worse.

“In November of 2006, I had to start emergency dialysis, going three times a week for three-and-a-half to four hours. It just drained me,” said Scott.

NOT ONLY WAS SCOTT PREVENTED from playing piano and singing, his life's greatest joys, his life was in danger.

“I didn't know how God was going to provide, or if He was going to provide a kidney donor,” said the deeply religious performer.

“And then on Aug. 22 of 2007, He did provide, and I had a kidney donor...and the amazing thing is my donor happens to be the wife of my former piano instructor from Arizona State University.

“I studied with this man, never dreaming that our relationship, and

especially with his wife, would be more than just a teacher-student relationship.

“She would literally save my life.”

Patricia downplays her selfless act and does not like to talk about her act of kindness.

“She said she was just trying to give something to somebody,” said her husband.

Healthy again, Scott auditioned for “American Idol,” and has so impressed the judges, he is being touted as a sure-fire finalist by many fans of the show.

Professor Cosand said Scott has kept him and Patricia updated by phone about his “Idol” quest.

“He told Patricia he wouldn't have been able to perform on the show without her,” said the professor. “Scott will always be grateful.”

by DON GENTILE
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DIETARY SUPPLEMENT FOR TYPE 2 DIABETICS

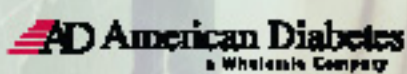
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