

Mt Barker singer Eliza Lovelock took to the stage at the Adelaide Festival Centre this month for the Students Got Talent contest.

SCOTT MURPHY

When 18-year-old Mt Barker singer Eliza Lovelock took to the stage at the Adelaide Festival Centre, she said she wasn't preparing to win this year's Students Got Talent contest.

She looked around at the other competitors before the show and said her motivation changed from winning to just putting on a great performance and doing what she loved most – singing in front of an audience.

She walked out onto the stage in front of a sold out crowd on February 12, picked up the microphone and sung *They just keep moving the line* from the musical *SMASH* to a roaring applause.

"I didn't think I was gonna get it because I walked into the soundcheck and I was listening to other people sing and dance and I was like 'oh no'," Ms Lovelock said. "The night finally came and everyone was dressed up really nicely and I did my performance and gave it my best shot."

She was the winner of the People's Choice Award – the contest's main award – which was determined by the audience through a clap monitor.

Mentoring program

"It was just so surreal and amazing ... I didn't expect to win and even now I'm like, I can't believe I won," she said.

Ms Lovelock won \$1000 and entry into a cabaret mentoring program to help develop her singing while networking with other like-minded professionals.

She said music was important to her and she was always looking for ways to challenge herself and improve her singing and performing. She is studying a Bachelor of Music at Tabor College which she said has pushed her to put herself out into the world more often.

"Tabor have helped me a lot because I've had so many opportunities like this one and I don't think I would have entered if I didn't think I had my university backing me every step of the way," she said.

"My head lecturers actually attended the event and gave me feedback afterwards so I can improve, which is really important."

Ms Lovelock will be taking to the stage again as part of Tabor's GLOW: Disco and Funk in the dark which was originally planned for the Fringe Festival but has been rescheduled to March 28, 29 and 30

