

Professional Materials for Young Artist Programs

The beginning of a new academic year also marks the beginning of a new audition season for opera young artist programs that will occur the following summer. These young artist programs are essential towards furthering an emerging performance career in the undergraduate and graduate years of schooling, as they provide performance opportunities, intense technical training, and extensive connections that cannot be pursued while studying at an academic institution. This past summer I attended the Franco-American Vocal Academy in Perigueux, France, where I intensely studied French art song and aria repertoire with teachers and coaches, performed in full opera productions, and immersed myself in French language and culture. Looking forward, I hope to attend one of the highly revered young artists programs in the United States this summer, specifically the Aspen Music Festival or the Brevard Music Center.

I am applying for a Miller Art Scholar Artist Minigrant to support the costs of acquiring and developing professional audition materials for my applications in the coming operatic audition season. Competitive representation requires professional headshots, clear and impressive video recordings, and extensive application fees. Additionally, I incur fees for repertoire preparation with my voice teacher and rehearsal and performance with my accompanist. Finally, both of these programs feature live auditions in New York City; while I request funding for transportation to the city, lodging will not be a financial commitment, as many singers I met this past summer can host me in the city. Beyond the scope of applying, live auditions are a valuable educational experience that I look forward to experiencing as practice for more professional endeavors in the future.

Timeline

September 2016 – Prepare audition repertoire with Pamela Beasley (voice teacher) and John Mayhood (accompanist)

October 2016 – Record video audition materials and hire photographer for headshot session

November-December 2016 – Attend live auditions in NYC and receive audition results

Budget

Voice Lessons on Audition Repertoire – 3x 60 minute sessions - - - - - \$180

Accompanist Rehearsal – 4x 30 minute sessions - - - - - \$100

Accompanist Recording – 1x 60 minute session - - - - - \$50

Headshots – 1x 60 minute session - - - - - \$100

Application Fee – Aspen Music Festival - - - - - \$65

Application Fee – Brevard Music Center - - - - - \$75

Travel to New York City for live auditions– two round-trip bus tickets- - - \$120

Total - \$690

I am willing and able to supplement the remaining \$190 that is not covered by the Artist Minigrant via personal income earned as Desk Supervisor at Old Cabell Hall.