

Classical Voice Performance Study in Vienna

Third Year Arts Award Outcome Report

Elise Ebert

Faculty Mentor: John Mayhood, Music Department

With the funding provided by the Miller Arts Scholars Arts Award and the mentorship of my faculty advisor, John Mayhood, I had the incredible opportunity to study opera in Vienna, Austria last semester (Fall 2022). While I knew it would be a fantastic experience, I was unprepared for how truly life-changing and fulfilling it would be. My time in Vienna was not just the best semester of my UVA experience, but probably the best 4 months of my life. I will be forever grateful to all the organizations and people that allowed this experience to happen, like Miller Arts Scholars.

In Vienna, I took a full courseload of music classes. I had a taste of that conservatory-style education I once dreamed of being my college experience. I took 16 credits: Opera History, Gustav Mahler, Voice Lessons, Music Performance Workshop, and Introductory German. In Opera History, I learned in depth about the historical and cultural context of the development of early opera through Mozart. We also had the opportunity for various class excursions, to the Staatsoper, Volksoper, and the Theater an der Wien to see some of the opera we learned about in class. In addition, we went to Vienna's Music Archive, where we learned how to independently find primary musical sources and use them in our own research, and a stringed instrument maker, where we got to learn about the process of crafting and repairing stringed instruments. In my class on Gustav Mahler, I learned about the historical context of his life, including his family and wife, Alma Mahler, and about all 9 of his symphonies in depth. This class has particularly helped me in my current semester at UVA, as I am currently taking a Leonard Bernstein seminar, who was extremely inspired by Mahler. My professor in this course was also the director of a wonderful organization in Vienna called "Exilarte", which we got to visit on a couple occasions throughout the semester. The Exilarte Center for Banned Music brings back music estates of Viennese composers who had been silenced by the Nazis, such as Hans Gal, Julius Burger, and Fritz Kreisler. We also visited the Arnold Schoenberg estate and got to see his original scores and paintings. My notes from these two classes are linked at the bottom of the page. In German class, I developed a basic grasp on the language that allowed me to navigate Austria without much difficulty. I am currently working on further developing my German skills with the hopes of returning to Vienna soon.

In my Music Performance Workshop, I had the opportunity to collaborate with other vocalists and instrumentalists. I worked on a Mozart chamber piece (2 sopranos, 2 violins, and 1 viola), a Mendelssohn duet (soprano and tenor), and a quintet from *Die Zauberflöte*, "Hm, hm, hm, hm..." (tenor, baritone, and 3 sopranos). The link to this performance is provided at the bottom of the report. I took private voice lessons (13 total) with a wonderful teacher, Elizabeth Bice, where I learned 8 completely new pieces of repertoire (more than I've ever learned in a semester), and performed a solo recital at the end of the semester with 10 pieces in German,

Russian, and French, which ended up being over 30 minutes of music. It is the longest solo recital and the most music I have ever performed. The experience was a lot of work, but very rewarding. I improved my practice discipline, vocal stamina and health, breath support, and learned to sing in Russian for the first time! I also had to prepare program notes for the recital. I've linked both the recital and program notes at the bottom of the application.

Outside of class, I made sure to richly engage in the music culture of Vienna. From going to the opera (which I did 11 times) to seeing the Vienna Philharmonic to watching musicians on the street, the city is flooded with music everywhere you look. One of my favorite parts of my time in Vienna was the ease with which I could go to the Opera. Because the Staatsoper is a repertoire theater, they change their production at least once a week (usually more). I signed up for a "Bundestheaterkarte" (Theater Membership Card), which allowed me to buy standing room tickets the day of for only €4. I also traveled to the birthplace and deathplace and Joseph Haydn in Burgenland (a province of Austria), the birthplace of Mozart in Salzburg, the home of Beethoven in Vienna, and the Vienna Central Cemetery, where we saw the graves of Beethoven, R. Strauss, Brahms, and Schubert. Additionally, my friends and I went to the Welk Museum (World Museum), where there is an enormous archive of old instruments, and the Interactive Music Museum, a super cool museum where you learn about sound production and reception, composers, and more.

My time in Vienna was a musical wonderland. I was surrounded by other musicians who wanted to immerse themselves in the Viennese musical culture as much as I did. I came back from Vienna a better musician, a more confident person, and a global citizen with a much greater awareness and appreciation of the world that exists outside of my home. I will carry forward these skills in the rest of my time at UVA and in preparation for my third-year recital this Spring and 4th Year DMP Recital in 2024.

Links:

- 1) [Opera History Notes.pdf](#)
 - 2) [Mahler Notes.pdf](#)
 - 3) [Music Performance Workshop Concert](#)
 - 4) [Elise Vienna Recital 2022.mp4](#)
 - 5) [Elise Ebert Recital Program.pdf](#)
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Photo Gallery:



Vienna Staatsoper



Beethoven's Grave



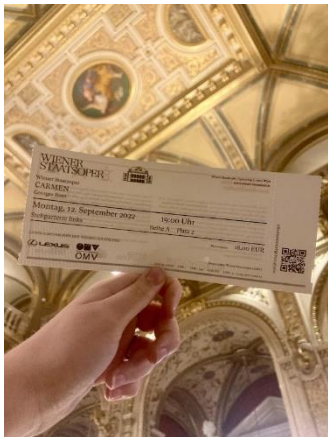
Vienna Musikverein



Lego Mozart at the Mozart Wohnhaus



Concert Hall at Schloss Esterhazy



Carmen at the Staatsoper



Welk Museum Antique Pianos



Hurdy-Gurdy Construction

Spending:

Expense:	Amount:	Details:
Tuition and Fees	\$17,035	
Books and Supplies	\$225	
Housing/Room	\$4,002	Apartment with 6 other exchange students from August-December
Dining/Board	\$1,500	Grocery money; ~\$100 a week for 15 weeks
Airline Tickets	\$800	Round-trip airfare
Local Transportation	\$100	Public transportation
Personal Expenses	\$400	Basic daily life necessities
Application Fees	\$90	
Visa Fees	\$180	
Health Insurance	\$230	
Total Cost:	\$24,562	

Income:	Amount:
Miller Arts Rising 3 rd Year Grant	\$3,000
Miller Arts Minigrant (contributing to airfare)	\$500
UVA Study Abroad Office Scholarship	\$1,000
Personal Contribution	\$20,062