

## Piano for Vocal Enhancement Proposal

I have been singing classical voice for almost 15 years, and therefore have constantly been surrounded by piano music, whether than be accompaniment to an aria or simply a teacher helping me warm up. As I've grown into a well-rounded musician, I've learned theory and musicianship skills that have strengthened me in musical skill as well as performance. When I was a freshman in high school, I went to a summer intensive for musicians. However, they separated the vocalists and the instrumentalists into different tracks for the program, labeling one "musicians" and the other "singers". This was the first time in my life I had been exposed to the stereotype that vocalists are somehow less intelligent or serious musicians than instrumentalists, and since then, have constantly made an effort to fight that harmful assumption.

One way I want to continue to strengthen my musical intelligence is through my piano skills. I took lessons in high school, understanding the essentiality of piano in order to become a skilled vocalist, especially for vocal teachers or directors, which I expect I will do at some point in my life. However, I began lessons late, when I was 14 and was unable to continue when I came to the University of Virginia due to credit and financial limitations. Through my coursework as a music major at UVA, I feel my sight-singing and theory skills strengthening by the day, but I also know I am slowly losing any piano skills I gained in high school through a lack of practice and training. I would greatly benefit from continuing to develop my piano skills in order to help me as a training classical vocalist. I would be able to easily teach myself music, accompany myself, and easily teach others and someday give vocal lessons myself.

In terms of my personal life, I love lyricism and songwriting. However, I have never been confident enough in my piano abilities to write or play an instrumental part, preventing me from sharing some of my music because my songs feel incomplete. Improving my piano abilities would also further this casual aspect of music that I enjoy in additional to my academic and professional musical studies.

If provided with this funding, I will enroll in 13 half-hour 2000-level piano lessons in the Spring (2022) semester. I am planning on studying music abroad in Vienna, Austria next Fall (2022), so my goal would be to reach a comfortable intermediate level by the end of the schoolyear. I want to be able to play basic/intermediate piano pieces, accompany myself, play vocal-warmups, and write instrumental parts for my own songs. I have a keyboard in my apartment, so between the weekly ½ hour lessons, I will practice for at least 1-2 hours a week, in addition to any supplemental piano playing I do when practicing voice.

### 1. Proposal Schedule

Fall 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reach out to piano teachers to</li><li>• Prepare for piano auditions for spring semester 2000 level piano lessons</li></ul>
Winter Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audition, place into piano level/with a teacher</li><li>• Purchase any books/music</li></ul>
Spring 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin weekly ½ hour lessons</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice, practice, practice!</li><li>• Write accompaniments for my pieces</li></ul>
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2. Proposed Budget

Item	Cost
13 2000-Level ½ Hour Weekly Piano Lessons	\$400