

Tina Hashemi
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Rising 3rd Year Arts Award Proposal

Networking and Musicianship Development in New York City

Project Overview

I want to develop my musicianship and awareness of contemporary jazz by attending performances in the jazz capital of the world, New York City. In order to improve myself as a musician, I need to be exposed to live jazz music performed by the best artists. New York City will provide access to the best, cutting-edge musicians in the jazz business. Networking will also be vital on this trip, as the jazz world is based on interpersonal connections and credibility is not only established through musical skill but also through association with prominent musicians. In order to facilitate this, I propose spending a week in New York during the time that Stephanie Nakasian, my voice instructor at UVA, will be in New York performing and sitting in at many clubs including Birdland. She has agreed to allow me to accompany her and sit-in on her and others' performances while introducing me to the big names of jazz in New York City. Additionally, I will be taking private lessons with several instrumentalists and vocalists who will be in New York City at the time, including Veronica Swift, Holli Ross, Darmon Meader, and Sheila Jordan. During the private lessons and the performances, I will focus on expanding my repertoire, learning new performance skills, jazz theory, improvisation, and learning about the music business by asking the musicians how they market themselves and get gigs. Using Ms. Nakasian's network of jazz musicians in New York, I will be able to schedule 5 lessons with jazz teachers and performers during the daytime. In studying with multiple people I will gain a range of perspectives on improvisation, phrasing, and vocal technique that will broaden my current understanding and performance of jazz music.

During my time at UVA, I have worked on improving my singing and improvisational skills and I have come to the point where I want to solidify the type of singer I want to be and the niche within jazz that I want to fulfill. I need to put myself out there in order for things to really start happening for me and in order to get critique. Going to New York and receiving feedback from accomplished jazz musicians will help me realize my strengths and weaknesses and find out what it is in jazz that I want to do. I am still in the process of discovering myself and my message, and this trip will jumpstart this process. By the conclusion of this trip, I hope to have a clear vision of my next steps and what I need to work on to improve my jazz singing.

For my outcome report, I will present a slideshow of notes taken during the lessons and sit ins as well as videos of myself singing in New York venues. I will also present a video of myself singing in the fall or spring semester to highlight the progress I will have made as a result of my trip. I will present all of these things in a slideshow presentation in April of 2020. My

prior coursework in music will help me analyze my experience with an academic lens which will help me to produce a more comprehensive end product when presenting the outcome.

Timeline

Spring 2019: Purchase train ticket and reserve Airbnb room. Prepare for the trip by practicing extensively in order to present my best self in New York

Late May: Private lesson with Veronica Swift in Charlottesville to prepare for New York

Summer 2019:

July 1st: Travel to New York City by Amtrak train from Philadelphia in the morning and check into the Airbnb. In the evening, Ms. Nakasian and I will see Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks, bebop music at 11th street bar, 20's music at the Rum House, and a show at Cleopatra's Needle.

July 2nd-8th: Continue to sit in on performances with Stephanie and take private lessons with several musicians, including Darmon Meader, Holli Ross, and Sheila Jordan. We will go to Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland Jazz Club, Blue Note, and Swing 46 among other clubs throughout the week. I will have a more concrete agenda as the dates get nearer and more concerts are announced.

July 8th: Check out of the Airbnb and take the train back to Philadelphia in the evening

Fall 2019: Continue my studies with Ms. Nakasian at UVA, focusing on the advice I receive over the summer. Present a showcase at a concert at either C'ville Coffee or The Whiskey Jar.

Spring 2020: Record myself during a performance and put together the presentation for April

Budget

Airbnb Lodging from July 1st-8th - \$542

Round-trip train ticket to New York - \$130

Meals - \$240

Private Lessons (~\$100/hr) - \$500

Music charges to attend performances - \$88

Total: \$1500

Evidence of Participation in the Arts

Within the University, I am a music major with a concentration in performance involved in the music department by singing with the jazz small groups, the vocal jazz ensemble, the Flying V's acapella group, and the jazz ensemble. In my first year, I was a soprano for the University Singers as well. I am also the jazz intern for the back office and work to promote the jazz department events to UVA students and the greater Charlottesville community. I also regularly perform local gigs around grounds and at local music events with my jazz band. Last semester, I completed a recording project with several students at VA Arts Recording through the Miller Arts Scholars and University Records and I have received another grant through the

Student Arts Fund to do another recording project at Small World Records. I have been taking private voice lessons with Stephanie Nakasian at the 3000 level and I have participated in vocal jazz recitals and showcases. In terms of coursework, I am currently enrolled in two 4000 level seminars: *Women in Music* and *Topics in Ethnomusicology: The Human Voice*. I have completed *Music Theory I*, *Music Theory II*, *Jazz Studies*, and *Keyboard Skills*.

Participation in the Arts Scholars Program

Within the Arts Scholars program, I took the CASS 1010 seminar in the fall of 2018 and I am currently serving as the Music Representative. The position involves reached out to the music department, musical CIOs, and individual music majors to encourage them to apply and serving on the executive team. I was unable to attend the discussion this semester due to a class conflict with a music course but I am excited to be back next semester.