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April 1 2020
Rising 4th Year Arts Award Proposal

Presenting and Recording a Professional Jazz Recital

Project Overview

As part of the performance concentration (and DMP potentially) within the music major, each fourth year presents a recital that showcases the culmination of their musical development over their time in college. I will be presenting the many components of my jazz studies at UVA in my jazz voice recital on February 27th, from performing with solo piano to trios, vocal jazz ensembles, and a small big band.

My recital will include original and collaborative arrangements of jazz standards and bebop tunes in addition to my own compositions. I have not solidified the details but I plan to perform one portion of the program with a jazz trio and the other with a small big band. I also want to create an arrangement with the big band that will incorporate the University Jazz Singers vocal jazz group doing backgrounds. I will be performing with the jazz trio that I have been working with since my first year, highlighting our personal musical communication we've developed over the years. In order to notate all of these arrangements, the music program Finale will be useful as it will allow more notation capabilities and better user interface for multiple parts than Muscores can provide. I will work with my mentors John D'earth, Rami Stucky, and Danielle Wertz to put the program together, work on these arrangements, and rehearse in the fall semester.

I would also like to purchase a professional microphone that is suited to my voice that I can use for gigs in the upcoming year as well as during my recital. I was planning to use the past spring minigrant on this but due to the coronavirus, I was unable to make it to Sam Ash to purchase it and instead paid for virtual lessons. As a jazz singer, the microphone is an important part of my vocal instrument as it amplifies what sound I make in a unique way depending on the type microphone, which affects my sound quality and timbre. In several of my past shows and even rehearsals, I have used microphones that were too bright or low quality that project my voice in an unpleasant way. As I begin to do more and more performances, I find myself in need of a microphone with high bass and warmer affect - I have spoken about this to my voice teacher, Stephanie Nakasian, who has recommended I go to Sam Ash (music store) to find a microphone that suits my voice so that I have control over my sound as a singer.

In preparation for the performance, I will be working with Danielle Wertz, a jazz singer whose vocal technique is aligned with my own and has helped me greatly through lessons funded by my spring minigrant to properly access my breath support and develop a healthy head voice

sound. I propose to have ten lessons (one per week) with her over zoom during summertime given how coronavirus has eliminated the possibility of doing a workshop or meeting in person.

While the music department will help cover the costs of promotion, accompanist time, rental of performance space, programs, basic recording, and hall management, a project of such scope and genre will require professional sound management. Most DMP concerts in Old Cabell Hall are classical and can be done acoustically, but with a jazz program that will use drum kits, electronic instruments, horns, and voices, a sound technician is key for a successful concert. Additionally, I would like to professionally record my recital and release it as a live album. A recording technician and professional videographer would allow me to accomplish this by documenting the concert and then mixing and editing the recordings. My advisor, John D'earth, regularly works with such professionals and will help me to put together a team that can fulfill the goals of this project within the budget. Having these recordings of my final recital will be helpful as I leave the UVA jazz program and begin my music career in a new city, and will also be personally meaningful to capture my sound and style at this point in my life. For the outcome report in April, I plan to present the video recordings of my completed fourth year recital.

Timeline

Summer 2020:

- Purchase microphone at Sam Ash once they reopen
- Start working on arrangements/compositions and get feedback
- Take virtual lessons with Danielle Wertz to develop good vocal technique and style

Fall 2020:

- Audition for DMP
- Begin rehearsals with the ensembles and finalize arrangements and program
- Work with John D'earth to put together a team in preparation for the recital

Spring 2021:

- Present and record the recital on February 27th at 8 pm
- Release the recordings online once they have been mastered
- Present these recordings at the April outcome showcase

Budget

Virtual lessons with Danielle Wertz - \$750 (10 lessons at \$75 each)

Finale student software - \$100

Microphone - \$350

Recording Engineer - \$600

Sound Technician - \$600

Videographer - \$600

Total: \$3000

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 two of the jazz small groups, The UVA Jazz Ensemble, and The University Jazz Singers, which I am the president of. In addition, I regularly perform local gigs around grounds and at local music events. 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 and I managed the WTJU Musical Commons performance series last semester.

Last year, I did a rising third year project focused on networking, learning, and seeing shows in New York City. I also used a mini grant last semester to attend the Jazz Education Network Conference. In my first two years at UVA, I completed two recording projects: one funded by the Miller Foundation and the other by the Student Arts Fund. I took private voice lessons with Stephanie Nakasian for two years and I now study with John D'earth. In terms of coursework, I am currently enrolled in "Musicianship II" and "Music and Discourse Since 1900." I have completed "Songwriting," "Women in Music," "Topics in Ethnomusicology: The Human Voice," "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 2019 and previously served as the Music Representative. The position involved reaching out to the music department, musical CIOs, and individual music majors to encourage them to apply. I was unable to attend the discussion this semester due to a class conflict but I am excited to be back next semester.