

MAS Minigrant Outcome Report
Chuanyuan Eric Liu

With the generous help of the Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant, I attended the Baroque Workshop in Harrisonburg from June 10th to June 16th. This intensive workshop introduced me to early music for the first time and I learned so much about the style and history of the 16th and 17th century European music. There were two 75-minute masterclasses every morning and every participant is in an ensemble group for the afternoon sessions.

The voice studio was formed by 2 sopranos, 2 mezzo-sopranos, 1 countertenor and 1 tenor and was led by the renowned Yale faculty Professor Judith Malafrente. An expert of early music, Professor Malafrente decided to focus on the arias and duets from Monteverdi's operas in this year's program. I was assigned Speranza's aria in L'Orfeo. I have never sung his work before and it was challenging at first for its recitative-like rhythms and long text. Professor Malafrente helped us with learning new and challenging pieces and talked a lot about the different interpretations for different composers, both of which are essential for young singers who are new to the early music world.

In the ensemble section in the afternoon, I got to work on two pieces by Purcell with continuo and 2 recorders. This is the first time I work with a small chamber group for a solo piece and I was very excited to sing the original version with different instruments instead of a piano. The feeling is different in a good way—the sound blends better and the different timbres of the instruments make the music richer. It inspired me to plan to invite instrumentalists to play with me in my DMP Recital next year and I really hope it will work out well.

I want to thank again the Miller Arts Scholar Program for making this wonderful experience available to me and for helping me become a better musician.

Expenditures:

Registration Fee: \$25

Workshop Tuition: \$450

Housing (Airbnb): $\$45 * 6 = \270

Meal: $\$25 \text{ per day} * 6 = \150

Total: \$895