

Josephine Miller

Miller Arts Scholars

Artist Minigrant Outcome Report

Fall 2017

Taking the Next Step

With generous funding from the Miller Arts Scholars through the Artist Minigrant program, I spent the fall 2017 semesters “re-vamping” my artist portfolio and fine-tuning through recordings, extra collaborative rehearsal sessions with my accompanist, and coachings with vocal coaches in the D.C. area. This semester-long undertaking gave me a chance to prep for the gap year I intend to take following my May graduation from the University of Virginia. I feel that I’m better prepared now going forwards.

My use of the grant fund began with paying unlimited access to a website integral and well known to many young singers seeking internships, summer programs and intensives, and auditions- Yaptracker. I was able to put some of the funding towards the \$95 fee that is required for full use of the site and applying to the programs. This also provided me a chance to update both my resume and my repertoire list as I prepared to publish it online for program and competition directors to see. In addition, I was able to spend time recording videos for my portfolio with my accompanist, which I later used for my summer program applications.

Part of my attempt to “take the next step” also included maintaining contact with specifically one contact that I made over the summer at a vocal intensive that I attended from end-July to mid-August of summer 2017. I was also able to attend this fantastic summer program- Bel Canto in Tuscany- with partial payment help from Arts Scholars

and it was here that I first met Giovanni Reggioli. Giovanni Reggioli is an Italian opera conductor and coach who has an impressive musical career resume. I sought out further studies with Giovanni, whose knowledge of opera and Bel Canto vocal styling is extensive and virtually unparalleled, at least in my opinion. Giovanni is located in the DMV central area, so my biweekly coachings with him required much gas as well as the pricey tuition per hour-long coaching. Every moment was worth it in fine-tuning some of the vocal habits I've developed that require more time than my weekly meetings with my voice teacher at UVA. I thoroughly intend to continue these coachings this semester and throughout my gap year, so this venture was completely worth pursuing.

Overall, I was able to spend one of my final semesters at the University of Virginia preparing for my artist career "in the real world." I was able to both up my virtual presence through recordings of new videos, becoming part of new online communities, and updating my resume. In addition, I sought out a professional relationship with a new mentor and contact in the musical world outside of UVA alone that helped not only my musical and vocal pursuits, but also my search for musical connections in general.

I am so thankful to be an Art Scholar and to have the opportunity to receive funding that allows me to pursue projects and competitions that I otherwise might not be able to. Endless thanks to all of the supports of the Miller Arts Scholars Program and a special thanks to Evie and Stephen Colbert as well as Sandy and Vinie Miller.