

Josephine Miller

Miller Arts Scholars

Artist Minigrant Outcome Report

NATS Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition

With generous funding from the Miller Arts Scholars through the Artist Minigrant program, I was able to attend the NATS Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition in Charleston, South Carolina. This annual competition takes place in various Virginia locations, featuring student singers of teachers in the Maryland, D.C., North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia and teachers as the judges, allows voice students across the region the chance to compete, place, and move on to the nationals level. Following the state, regional (which I attended with this grant), and national level.

I had the honor of competing in both the musical theater and classical divisions. On Friday, I competed in musical theater with a wide-range of repertoire ranging from modern pieces by Jason Robert Brown and more classic, golden-age pieces by Rodgers and Hammerstein. In this category, I scored second place meaning I scored the second highest score and also received honors, receiving a scoring of excellent. Because of this, I am eligible to audition for a spot in the National competition in Chicago, Illinois.

On Saturday, I competed in the classical division with another broad range of repertoire, with each of my 3 pieces in a different language; my favorite piece to perform was “Frère Voyez” from Werther by Massenet. The rooms we competed in were rooms in the College of Charleston’s music and performing arts department. The room I performed in for the classical division was not optimal for me and I was noticeably

thrown off by the sound of the room, which did not resonate as the rooms I am used to performing in at UVA. I ended up not even placing honors, which came as a disappointment and shock as I had placed first in regionals. Nonetheless, I think this experience reminded me of how great art is outside of that, and also me as a singer, I have to be able to adapt and grow into the space around me. We also did a workshop focusing on this in the Fall 2015 semester of the Arts Scholars Seminar and I reflected on some of the things we learned during that lessons. It was also humbling and a reminder that I still have so much work to do; with the help and support of my arts scholars, however, I feel fully confident in my abilities to further grow and learn.

The competition was overall a success and learning experience for me. I was so happy to place second in musical theater and found a renewed energy in relation to my work ethic and the work I am ready and excited to put into my craft. I also had such a wonderful experience being able to attend this conference with my good friend and fellow Arts Scholar, Wesley Diener. It was great to travel with him and also see the experiences he went through at the competition.

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.