

Project Overview Narrative:

A Study in German & German Lieder

To be completed in Vienna, Austria (an application to study abroad has been submitted and approved by the Study Abroad Office)

My proposed project is an immersive study in German and German lieder to be completed through a study abroad in the fall semester of 2014. In the fall of 2014, I am studying in Vienna, Austria with the IES Abroad Music Program. Home to an astounding number of composers (from Haydn to Mozart to Beethoven and Brahms), Vienna maintains its heritage with the richness of musical culture to this day. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, The Musikverein, and the Wiener Staatsoper are just a few of the musical institutions that help make Vienna the “City of Music” – and make it the perfect place to engage in the study of performance and music history. While in Vienna, I will be taking voice lessons with a vocal professional of high standing (I will be auditioning for a teacher once I’m there, much like our performance program here), as well as taking classes in Baroque Musical History, Art and Cultural Management, and German, all of which will count toward both of my majors. Additionally, I will be interning for an arts and cultural organization (again, I won’t know where until August, but undoubtedly it will be an incredibly unique experience).

I am a music major at the University, and so far, my time here has been wonderful. As a performer, though, I’ve come to be at a disadvantage. While my classes have certainly augmented my musical abilities, I have not received the kind of performance training necessary to be an accomplished singer simply because we do not have those kinds of resources yet. My semester abroad would focus on my performance education, and would augment my musical career.

My objectives in studying in Vienna are as follows:

- Improve my vocal technique, musical skills, stylistic interpretive abilities, and rehearsal techniques through intense practice and rigorous teaching
- Improve my performance practices through various performing opportunities throughout the semester, culminating with a 30+ minute recital, featuring a set of German lieder
- Acquire the practical skills of giving a recital, in preparation for a DMP my fourth year, including scheduling, organization, setting up and running recording equipment, writing a concert program, and preparing and presenting publicity
- Expand my repertoire, especially my German lieder repertoire
- Study the German language and gain at least a basic structural understanding of the language to improve my ability to understand the German music I sing in lessons
- Study the musical history of Vienna and use it to improve my own comprehension of the huge impact Vienna has on the music I sing today

- Understand the differences between the art and culture of Vienna and Austria as compared to the art and culture of the United States

My progress will be monitored in conjunction with Mrs. Beasley, my faculty mentor. Through weekly correspondence, I will keep Mrs. Beasley updated with my progress: the repertoire I'm singing, specific techniques I'm learning, and the general tone of my lessons. Once I've returned to the United States and UVa, I plan on continuing my lessons with Mrs. Beasley and implementing the vocal technique, German language skills, and recital preparation skills in lessons and performances. I will also utilize these skills to prepare a second 30+ minute recital, similar to the one prepared in Vienna, for Spring 2015 with Mrs. Beasley's voice studio. I plan on performing sections of this recital in the Center for Undergraduate Excellence Grant Reception in the first week of April 2015. Much of the repertoire I study while in Vienna will be utilized in preparation for my DMP, to be completed in my fourth year.

A condensed timeline is as follows:

- Fall, 2014: Study Abroad in Vienna, Austria from August 20th until December 20th, during which I will be taking four classes, voice lessons, and participating in an arts and culture internship
 - The last week of the semester, I will present a 30+minute recital
- Spring, 2014: Resume studying voice with Pam Beasley
- Early April 2014: Present segments of the recital performed in the fall for the Grant Reception held by the Center for Undergraduate Excellence
- Late April 2014: Present a second, 30+ minute recital in conjunction with Pam Beasley's voice studio

Budget

To complete this project, I am applying for a grant of \$3000. This grant would cover airline tickets and voice lessons. The complete budget is as follows:

- Tuition - \$15,735
 - Housing - \$4,460
 - Health Insurance - \$200
 - Visa fees - \$135
 - Airfare - \$1,700
 - Textbooks - \$250
 - Meals - \$3,800
 - Local transportation and travel - \$500
 - Private music lessons - \$1600
 - Personal expenses - \$1950
- Total: \$30,330

These are approximate costs, of course, but I am expecting that the total above is not far off from what I will indeed spend in my time abroad. The \$3,000 would aid the impact of the \$1,600 voice lessons plus the \$1,700 plane tickets. The total cost is closer to \$3,300, but I would cover that extra cost with the income I earn this summer while working at the University of Delaware. The rest of the budget is obviously not covered in the \$3000 grant. However, I will pay tuition and housing with money from my college fund (since I will not be paying UVa tuition in tandem) and I will be applying to additional scholarship foundations to try and make this trip as economical as possible.

Conclusion

People always ask me, "Rachel, why do you want to abroad? You love it here." The answer is not simple. The time I've spent thus far at the University has been hugely influential, in both my artistic and academic life. And it's true, I love it here. I have been afforded some amazing opportunities, including admittance into the Arts Scholars program. But, like any artist, I am restless. I am ready to be surrounded by another language, to feel a different culture around me, to experience the sights and the sounds of a new place. I am ready to be inspired, in ways that I cannot be here. I am ready to experience music not from this country, to go to the opera, to the symphony, to hear amazing performers and performances.

This all sums up to say: I cannot wait to go abroad. I am ecstatic that I have the chance to study voice in Vienna, the birthplace and home of so many composers whose music I have the pleasure of singing, and I would be honored to receive a grant to make the expenditures of going abroad a bit more bearable.

Thank you for reading!