

Talia Pirron

Miller Arts Scholars

Rising Fourth-Year Arts Award Proposal

Fourth-Year Recital: Reflections

I. Proposal Overview

I am proposing support for a fourth-year voice recital which would allow me to present the culmination of my work as a music major and arts scholar at UVA. I am requesting \$2500, which I have broken down in detail in my budget below, to be used to support the artistic preparation as well as logistics for putting together said recital. I intend to use \$800 in order to take voice lessons through the Summer as well as vocal coaching, which will allow me to strengthen my technique and begin working on possible recital repertoire, in preparation for the Fall semester. I studied abroad during the entirety of my third year and, although I've continued working on repertoire and practicing technique on my own, it is imperative that I begin studying with a professional teacher before the beginning of next semester in order to hone my vocal skills in preparation for this vocally-taxing endeavor. I will be using the rest of the budget to cover logistical needs such as space rental, accompanist fees, lighting and recording, photoshoots to be used for publicity, printing of programs, etc. Again, I have detailed each expense below in my budget. For my outcome presentation, I intend to share the experience of how the recital helped me to grow musically and in my organizational skills, and potentially perform a piece from the recital as well, if time and circumstances allow. I am aware that drafting and performing a solo recital is a large endeavor. However, I am confident that this is a project I am prepared to take on, and which will immensely benefit my musical and professional growth.

The experience of drafting a program, practicing and performing material before an audience, and the opportunity to share musical progress with family, friends, and community members is a major milestone that puts music students' years of study to the test. I believe that this experience will not only challenge my musical abilities, as I come up with a program and test my vocal strength in giving a solo recital which will last around 1 hour, but also give me practice with organizational skills. In order to put on the recital, I will have to coordinate between many parties including the venue, lighting and sound engineers, an accompanist, potentially other musicians, photographer, and others. It will require a lot of advanced planning and organization, as well as coordination with my mentor and private voice instructor. I have chosen as a mentor Bonnie Gordon, who is also my music major mentor. As a professional musician, Professor Gordon has extensive experience in recital planning and coordination, and I am sure that her guidance will be extremely helpful as I take on this endeavor. I plan to meet with her regularly throughout the Summer and the year to inform her on my progress and ask advice on problems I run into, as I'm sure there will be many. I will also be working under the

guidance of Professor Beasley, my private vocal instructor, who will help me in the artistic preparation of the recital.

I expect to run into many challenges and difficulties throughout this process. I know that securing a recital venue, for example, will be a challenge. I hope to use Old Cabell Hall, but am aware that it is competitive to secure a spot in the Hall, particularly in the Spring, and am flexible with my options as a result. I am also going to be open to choosing an earlier recital date, in the hopes that there may be more availability in the Hall before the end of the year. This will require me to have my repertoire and logistics sorted well in advance. I also realize that, as a project like this requires coordination among lots of different people, I may experience issues with scheduling and last-minute cancellations, etc. My goal is to approach the project with as much preparation and organization as possible, but with an open-mind and knowledge that sometimes things don't go as planned and that I must be flexible and creative with solutions.

This recital will allow me to properly focus my repertoire selection, technique goals, and provide me with useful skills as I graduate and begin a professional career in music. The experience of putting together a program, coordinating booking a location, accompanists, recording artists and photographers, collaborating with other musicians, drafting and publishing program notes, and all of the other detailed steps that go into giving a recital will no doubt be a challenge but will be immensely helpful practice for a career in classical music. And, with the support of the Miller Arts Scholars and under the mentorship of Bonnie Gordon and my voice professor Pamela Beasley, I know this will be a good stepping-stone as I prepare to leave UVA and prepare to enter the professional music world. I plan to give a recital which reflects the work I have done in private study over the past three years by including a variety of repertoire from different styles, periods, and languages. I intend to follow the theme of "Reflections," choosing pieces which reflect on the mundane beauty of nature, love, and nostalgia or regret. I also hope to collaborate with other musicians, as I think that collaboration with other artists is always a good way to not only grow as an artist yourself, but to foster a sense of community among artists.

Throughout my time at UVA, I have taken private voice lessons, making sure to practice carefully and diligently so as to allow myself to challenge my technique and repertoire. During these years of study, I always imagined a fourth-year recital as sort of the final step before crossing the finish line in my undergraduate music studies, as a final personal challenge which will give me a sense of accomplishment. I have wanted to give a fourth-year recital since declaring a music major, but unfortunately was unable to do the performance concentration or Distinguished Major Program through the music department due to scheduling constraints. I am a double major with another Distinguished Major Program (Global Security and Justice) and, due to my year spent abroad, have little flexibility upon returning to Grounds. I am grateful to Miller Arts as a resource for being able to fund such projects, as it provides an opportunity to still be able to experience this musical milestone and opportunity for growth and development. Thank you for your consideration of my project proposal.

Budget:

Expense	Amount	Details
Summer / Winter Break Vocal Study	\$800	<p>\$680 - Voice lessons to be taken over the summer while living and working in Paris in order to begin working on recital repertoire and regaining technique before the semester. Price based on a quote from a local conservatory of 80 euros per hour (85 dollars/hour) for 8 sessions, the length of the two months I'll be in Paris. I already receive a scholarship from the music department which covers my voice lessons with Professor Beasley during the semester.</p> <p>\$120 - For two \$60/hour coaching sessions with Melanie Day (vocal coach and opera director from the Virginia Commonwealth University) in Richmond, VA (my hometown) to workshop performance skills of selected repertoire, most likely over the winter break next year when I have done baseline repertoire work with Professor Beasley.</p>
Renting Old Cabell Hall - Base price	\$560	Five-hour reservation time and up to two-hours of rehearsal time, quote taken from Music Department website ~1 hour for the recital itself, 2 hours to set up / rehearse before, 2 hours to clear the house and strike afterwards
Piano Use- Old Cabell Hall	\$270	\$180 basic cost for use and \$90 to tune (required), quote taken from music department website
Sound- Recording	\$60	Recording and live-streaming equipment, quote taken from music department website
Recital Photoshoot	\$100	Quote from a Charlottesville-based photographer for one one-hour photography session to be used for publicizing.
Recital- Accompanist Fees	\$450	\$300 for recital, \$150 for six half-hour rehearsal sessions at \$25 each, leading up to the recital.
Miscellaneous Fees	\$260	Estimated price for miscellaneous fees including program printing, recording rights, price changes for accompanist/photographer/rental space fees, music cost for pieces that cannot be found in music library, necessary equipment, hiring recording engineers, etc.
Total:	\$2500	

Timeline:

Summer 2023

- Take voice lessons to begin re-developing vocal technique, focusing on technique needed for the chosen recital repertoire / ideas for repertoire
- Coordinate with Music Department / Old Cabell Hall to book recital date for Spring 2023
- Begin drafting ideas for repertoire set to be reviewed and finalized with Professor Beasley and mentor Bonnie Gordon in the Fall

Autumn 2023

- Re-start private voice lessons with Professor Beasley
- Finalize program and begin in-depth study of recital repertoire in voice lessons
- Coordinate with music department accompanists John Mayhood and Karen Dalton to arrange for an accompanist available for Spring 2023 recital date
- Begin working on program notes and background research on each piece, writing translations, providing musical context etc.
- Work with Vocal Coach twice throughout the winter holiday to strengthen performance technique

Spring 2023

- Continue taking lessons with Professor Beasley and sharpening repertoire
- Complete photoshoot with local Charlottesville photographer and make posters to publicize recital
- Rehearse with accompanist and vocal coach throughout the early Spring semester
- Print programs, coordinate ushers and recording engineers for the recital
- Hold the recital! Have a wonderful learning experience and reflective moment to share my musical studies with family and friends
- Reflect on the experience in writing my Outcome Report in May 2023