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Arts Scholars Minigrant Application

Designing a Musical Education in Paris

Project Summary

This semester, I am very fortunate to be studying abroad in Paris where I have a plethora of artistic opportunities at my fingertips. I am focusing on my other degree (Global Studies) while here, and so am not currently enrolled in any music courses or actively studying with a private instructor. Nonetheless, I want to continue my musical education on my own and take advantage of the musical and artistic opportunities available to me while living in such a rich cultural hub. With this in mind, I intend to craft my own musical education and curriculum based on the live performances available to me. Attending live performance is not only an excellent form of research, allowing one to broaden one's repertoire and exposure to genres, performance styles, and musical works, but also a means of finding inspiration. In attending live performances, one is able to view technique in action, gain a broader perspective for the scope of possibility within one's artform or other artforms, and open up new horizons to different performance forms, genres, pieces, works, etc. While seeing live works is an excellent way of broadening horizons, it's also extremely gratifying to see live productions that one has studied and to be able to recognize technique and performance styles in action. Additionally, I plan to perform a junior recital alongside fellow Arts Scholar Elise Ebert in the Spring, and having the opportunity to witness first-hand the performance technique of some of the best musicians in the world would be extremely beneficial as I prepare for my own recital.

Project Proposal

I am proposing a self-guided arts experience to supplement my musical education while studying abroad in one of the historical and modern centers of musical and artistic history. I have crafted a season of musical performances ranging in genre, style, ensemble type, and musical era, including opera performances, oratorio, musical theater, chamber music with and without soprano soloists, and orchestra works in the list. Crafting such a varied musical experience will allow me to discover different things and gain the most out of every concert. The works selected also range from pieces I have intensely studied or performed to works that I have never seen before and know little about. This range will allow me to solidify my knowledge of and see-in-action the works I've already had the opportunity to study while also exposing me to new repertoire. The range in genre and styles will also provide interesting contrast between possibilities in the musical world, which is helpful in trying to figure out what I want my specialization to be in music. Viewing various forms of performance as an audience member will help me to evaluate performance techniques which I liked and which were engaging, which I can then employ in my own preparation for my junior recital as well as general performing opportunities for the future.

Budget:

PRODUCTION	COST	TYPE	REASONING	WHO
Bestiaire	\$26	Chamber music	This chamber music performance by the Paris Philharmonic will feature musicians from the philharmonic as well as soprano soloist performing a wide range of repertoire from Ravel to Rameau to Caplet. This performance is much more low-key than the other grand ensemble productions I've added to my list, and a good opportunity to watch a soloist at work in an intimate setting and introduce myself to new soprano art song repertoire.	Paris, Paris Philharmonic
Six the Musical	\$50	Musical theater	I will be in London visiting family during my Fall semester break and, while there, wanted to see a show on the West End. Paris is wonderful for classical music, but doesn't have a huge musical theater scene. <i>Six</i> is an interesting show that challenges a lot of conventions of musical theater, and I think it'd be a really interesting and different addition to my musical "curriculum" this Fall. It's also very different stylistically, with music that is pop and R&B-inspired.	London, West End
Carmen- Bizet	\$120	Opera	This is one of my favorite operas of all time, and it was actually the first opera I ever saw. The opera originally premiered in France in 1875, and with a French libretto, and it would be incredible to see this opera performed in its original language in the city where it was originally performed. While Mozart's operas are a staple of the Classical era of music, Bizet is a Romantic composer, and so this stylistic difference between the two operas will provide an interesting contrast.	Paris, Opera de Paris at Opera Bastille
Handel's Messiah	\$45	Oratorio	One of the most famous and widely-performed oratorios of all time, this work is an extremely important part of musical history and choral repertoire. I've sung the Halleluia Chorus for almost 13 years and have studied the oratoria in music history courses, yet have never seen a live production of the work. This performance is being put on at Versailles, which I can access for free using my Paris rail pass.	Versailles, Royal Opera
The Marriage of Figaro- Mozart	\$205	Opera	This work is not only a staple in opera repertoire, but a production that I have done extensive work in including not	Paris, France Opera de

			<p>only learning and performing multiple arias and duets from the work but also writing two papers on its history and music. Seeing this production at one of the most well-renowned opera houses and performed by one of the best opera companies in the world would be extremely gratifying, tying together all of the work I have done on this piece throughout my educational career at UVA.</p>	Paris at the Palais Garnier
Concert de Tchaikovsky et Prokofiev	\$30	Orchestra	<p>This concert features some of the greatest Russian composers of all time, presenting both the Romeo and Juliet overture as well as the Prokofiev violin concerto no. 1. These pieces range stylistically from some of the other performances I've added to my list, as well as in the fact that they are performed by an orchestra as opposed to having a singing element. While I am a singer primarily, I think it's also important to have a well-rounded musical education and be familiar with other performance types and repertoire.</p>	Paris, Orchestre de Paris
Chamber music	\$25	Chamber music	<p>This chamber concert will feature pieces ranging from Schubert to Dallapiccola to Roussel, and features instruments including the flute, oboe, clarinet, harp, cello, piano, and violin. I am especially interested in hearing chamber music with harp, as I grew up singing with a harp ensemble.</p>	Paris, Orchestre de Paris

TOTAL: \$501

Timeline:

- **October:** Purchase tickets to each performance (I have already researched)
- **November-December:** Attend performances (from November 9-January 4)
- **January:** Reflect on performances; take note of techniques observed, new repertoire learned, etc. as well as what I want to incorporate into Spring semester study
- **Spring Semester:** Use knowledge gained from this experience to incorporate into voice and music studies and to prepare for my junior recital.