

## **Fourth Year Recital: Patience and Persistence**

*Benjamin Trombetta, Miller Arts Scholar (Music)*

**Project Proposal:** I am asking for funding for continued vocal study with Pamela Beasley during the summer months, in addition to coordinating all aspects of a fourth-year recital in Spring 2022, which includes a space rental, accompanist fees, and other miscellaneous costs.

**Faculty Mentor:** Pamela Beasley, [pbb2c@virginia.edu](mailto:pbb2c@virginia.edu)

### **Project Overview**

One year ago, in the hopes that pandemic conditions would allow for some level of normalcy by Spring 2021, I applied for funding for a similar third year project; unfortunately, the arts were forced online, and I was unable to hold a cumulative in-person recital. Instead, I reimagined the grant funding as a resource for musical enrichment and purchased instruments and materials that contributed to vocal growth. As vaccines become more widespread in the United States, the path towards in-person artistic opportunities has slowly begun to clear, and I am quite hopeful that in approximately one year's time, the state of the pandemic will allow for a safe in-person Fourth Year Recital. Over the course of the past three years, I have studied voice with Professor Pamela Beasley, and am astonished by my growth over time, particularly in technical areas like breath, range, and posture, in addition to general confidence. During my first year, I never thought I would be capable of holding an in-person recital of approximately ten songs, ranging in style from a musical theatre duet like "No One is Alone" from *Into the Woods* to Beethoven's "Adelaide." Thanks largely to Mrs. Beasley's teaching, advanced vocal study has expanded my knowledge of classical music; as I brainstorm for the recital, my head is now spinning with German lieder and song cycles, Italian arias, and comical theatrical songs.

Under the mentorship of Pamela Beasley, I intend to perform a culminating fourth-year recital in February or March 2022, ideally in a space like Old Cabell Hall. In order to accomplish this goal, I plan to take additional voice lessons with Mrs. Beasley throughout the summer of 2021, so not to lose any technical progress made during my third year and encourage consistent practice outside of a school setting. I will continue taking lessons during the academic year while simultaneously planning all aspects of my recital, which are detailed in the "budget" section below. Due to time constraints and fourth-year thesis obligations for my Political & Social Thought major, I ultimately decided not to apply for the performance concentration or distinguished major in music, which would have guaranteed a departmentally funded recital in Old Cabell Hall. The financial support of the Miller Arts Scholars program would make my dream of a recital a reality, a comprehensive celebration of four years of vocal study. I firmly believe that the musical and performance-based skills I will learn through the experience of preparing and presenting a Fourth Year Recital are crucial to my further development as an artist, and I am immensely grateful to the Miller Arts Scholars program for their support and help in accomplishing my musical goals.

## Budget

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
Private Voice Lessons with Pam Beasley	\$800	10 lessons this summer at \$80/hour. I currently receive a music department scholarship of \$795/semester, so semesterly voice lessons will be fully funded.
Recital – Photoshoot	\$100	Quote received from a local Charlottesville photographer. Photos to be used as material for publicizing the recital.
Recital – Space Rental	\$850 (\$525 base price, \$95 piano tune, \$180 piano use, \$50 sound recording)	Based on the cost of <a href="#">renting Old Cabell Hall</a> ; rough estimate, actual recital space TBD. Options include Old Cabell Hall, Brooks Hall, Helms Theater, etc.
Recital – Accompanist Fees	\$425	Estimated pianist fees; \$300 for recital, \$125 for 5 ½ hour rehearsal sessions at \$25 each
Recital – Miscellaneous Costs	\$325	Includes additional music books, program printing, refreshments, possible rise in space rental cost, etc.
<b>Total Cost*</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	I would graciously appreciate any funding from the Miller Arts Program to help me accomplish my musical goals.

\*Much of this proposal is crafted under the impression that pandemic conditions in Charlottesville will allow for in-person musical opportunities by the spring semester of 2022, largely due to recent vaccine rollout and UVA’s plans for an in-person fall semester. Should COVID-19 still pose a significant threat to the health and safety of the local community next spring, I will work closely with Mrs. Beasley to come up with a creative way to hold an online recital and reallocate additional funds towards musical resources like virtual masterclasses and further vocal study.

## **Timeline**

### Summer 2021:

- Take 10 summer voice lessons with Mrs. Beasley, spaced out over the course of June through August. These will most likely be virtual, unless pandemic conditions drastically change and allow for safe in-person singing experiences.

### Fall 2021:

- Continue taking Advanced Vocal Performance (MUPF 3110) with Mrs. Beasley.
- Coordinate with music department faculty to secure a recital space and date in February or March 2022. Confirm that a departmental accompanist, such as Karen Dalton or John Mayhood, can play for this date.
- Ensure that I have a diverse selection of music in my repertoire for the upcoming recital, including pieces in both classical and musical theatre-styles.

### Spring 2022:

- Continue taking Advanced Vocal Performance (MUPF 3110) with Mrs. Beasley.
- Finalize program for recital; rehearse with accompanist throughout January and February in anticipation of late February/early March recital date.
- Have recital pictures taken with local Charlottesville photographer.
- Print programs, purchase refreshments, and prepare recital space for performance.
- Hold fourth-year recital!
- Post-recital: reflect on what I have learned by completing an Outcome Report by 4/1/22.

## **Example of Work:**

Below are links to two recent performance examples; one from a Tea Time Recital in Old Cabell Hall in December 2019, and another from a Zoom Recital for Pamela Beasley's studio in November 2020. Each respective recital represents the culmination of a semester's worth of vocal study. In these videos, I sing two classical pieces by George Frideric Handel: *Non lo dirò col labbro* and the second half of *Would You Gain the Tender Creature* from *Acis and Galatea*.

“Non lo dirò col labbro:” <https://youtu.be/jaWZOsiHESU>

“Would You Gain the Tender Creature:” <https://youtu.be/YLT093q3gR4>

## Evidence of Participation in the Arts

As I prepare for my fourth and final year of undergraduate study at the University of Virginia, I recognize how fortunate I am to participate in the artistic community here and am immensely grateful for the profound impact the arts have had on me over the course of the past three years. I took the following courses during the past six semesters, and intend to take more:

- ARTH 3525: Sieneese Art and Architecture (Renaissance Art History)
- CASS 1010: College Arts Scholars Seminar
- CASS 1011: College Arts Scholars Discussion
- COLA 1500: How to Music (Ethnomusicology)
- DANC 2220: Modern/Contemporary I
- GSGS 4559: Arts Activism, Liberated Spaces, and Creative Economies
- MUEN 3650: University Singers (5 times)
- MUEN 3651: Chamber Singers (5 times)
- MUPF 2111: Performance (Voice)/MUPF 3110: Advanced Performance (Voice)
- MUSI 3010: Early Modern Music (1500-1700)
- MUSI 3050: Music and Discourse Since 1900
- MUSI 3070: Introduction to Musical Ethnography (year-long course)
- MUSI 3310: Theory I
- MUSI 3332: Musicianship I

In addition to relevant coursework, I have also enjoyed opportunities made available through voice lessons to perform at both in-person and virtual recitals, juries, and VANATS. I also was lucky enough to experience masterclass training with acclaimed pianist Martin Katz during my first year and sit in on classes with Broadway actors like Jessie Mueller in later semesters. During my second year, I was the tenor section leader for the University Singers, and now serve as the New Member and Social Chair for the group, organizing all group social events and finding creative ways to make our new members feel included and welcomed into our musical community during an otherwise isolating time. I also served as the General Manager of Chamber Singers during my second year, working closely with Professor Slon and the music department to coordinate logistics for all rehearsals and concerts with the group.

Outside of the music department, I teach online voice lessons for students aged 8-16 through Empowered Players, a local theatrical nonprofit in Fluvanna, VA that aims to make a difference in the community through the arts. This semester, I am also vocal directing for First Year Players' socially distant, filmed production of *Singin' in the Rain*, and was in the cast of FYP's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* during my first year. I am also a member of the Academical Village People a cappella group and give tours to prospective students as an Arts Grounds Guide.

As an active member of the Miller Arts Scholars community, I have taken both CASS 1010 and 1011 and am considering a future leadership role. I also enjoy supporting fellow arts scholars in all of their endeavors whenever possible. Even in this year's virtual environment, I have marveled at students' creativity through virtual theatrical performances and visits to art galleries.