

Project Overview Narrative

Title: Performance Intensive with BalletMet

Project description:

The main part of the project will be taking place in Columbus, Ohio at the summer intensive program for students at BalletMet. As a prospective dance minor at a liberal arts institution that only offers a minor in dance, I have been searching for opportunities to immerse myself in the professional dance world. After participating in several auditions for dance intensives, I chose BalletMet because of the extensiveness of the program, and also because it works with several dance genres closely resembling modern/contemporary technique in addition to classical ballet technique.

I have two main objectives in attending this program. The first is to expand and work on my technique and artistry as a ballet dancer. I have not previously attended an intensive program like this one, and I am hopeful that it will allow me to hone my technique, give me a close-up view of what company life is like, and provide invaluable networking opportunities with the professional dance world. I intend to pursue dance professionally following graduation, and in order to be prepared for this I will need to refine my technical and artistic capabilities as much as possible between now and then.

I have never directly experienced the life of a full-time dancer before, and I feel the need to have some experience in this prior to stepping out and looking for positions following graduation. I hope this intensive program will help to prepare me mentally, physically and artistically for this.

My second objective is to become more choreographically fluent. I feel I need more experience dancing in a professional environment, and perhaps also more technical proficiency, in order to be able to begin working more in choreography. I have been minimally involved in choreography at UVa so far, and I hope, in my next two years, to combine the work I have done at UVa in modern and contemporary dance with the more classical dance that I was originally trained in and that I will be participating in at BalletMet. I intend to take dance improvisation and composition in my third year so that I can use this in conjunction with what I learn over the summer at this intensive to hopefully create a neo-classical/modern dance piece. During my time at BalletMet I will be taking classes that discuss choreography and the choreographic process as well as lectures from guest teachers and choreographers, in addition to the classes in technique and partnering etc. which are the staples of the program.

Timeline:

The main timeline of the project will start when I begin classes at BalletMet in June. I intend to keep careful written track of what I am learning both technically and choreographically over the course of the five-week program, and begin to work on a dance piece that I will be able to use the ideas from to present a project or share what I gained at the intensive at UVa next spring. Ideally, I will have the opportunity to work informally with dancers while I am at the intensive to begin to develop these ideas so that I can start to see what the movement materials look like on dancers' bodies.

The second part of the project will be taking dance improvisation in the upcoming fall semester. I intend to continue developing on the ideas I will work on formulating over the summer, but from the different perspective of modern technique and improvisation. A large portion of the work I will be doing at BalletMet will be based exclusively in classical technique, so I want to begin to integrate my choreographic ideas from the summer into something more neo-classical/modern over the course of the fall semester. Also, I hope to participate in modern technique classes as often as possible during the fall 2018 semester for additional choreographic reference.

Finally, I intend to iron out the concept and choreography that I work on between my time at BalletMet and in dance improvisation in dance composition in the spring 2019 semester. Either during the spring 2019 semester while taking dance composition, or in the following fall 2019 semester I hope to present a finished product of my project, perhaps in the Dance Program Concert.

Budget:

The expenses of my project are all for the intensive program at BalletMet this summer. Tuition for the program is \$2400 and was covered fully by a scholarship from BalletMet. Room and board for the program is \$2600, and transportation will be between \$320 and \$375.

The funding I am requesting in this grant would go towards my room and board and transportation to and from Columbus. Room and board will cover both lodging and meals. My travel from Virginia to Columbus will be by air. All expenses that remain, including whatever dance supplies I may need over the course of the intensive, will be covered with personal funds. I believe the award amount, in combination with my scholarship for tuition, will be sufficient for me to be able to achieve my goals for the project.

Participation in the arts at UVa:

My involvement in the arts at UVa is mostly in dance, with some in music as well. I have performed in five dance pieces in the past three dance program concerts and have participated in every program concert since my first semester. I will be performing in three different pieces in the upcoming Spring 2018 Dance Concert. I am also involved in Rhapsody Ballet Ensemble on grounds, and have performed with the group twice, and will be performing in its spring showcase on April 22nd. In addition to dancing with Rhapsody, I have choreographed and assisted in the choreography of several pieces over the past three semesters.

Courses I have taken include dance technique classes such as Modern/Contemporary I and Ballet I and II, as well as Dance for Camera this semester. Additionally, I have taken Dance Production Laboratory four times for participation in the dance program concert.

In addition to my involvement in dance, I also have been involved in the music department. I have been a pianist for most of my life and have continued to take lessons at UVA. I have taken intermediate and advanced piano performance classes in the music department, as well as music theory. I have also performed in two recitals in my time at UVA so far, and hopefully will be performing in a showcase in May. I have worked with the music department a couple times as well to turn pages for pianists who were accompanying a soloist.