

**Alex Burijon**

Miller Arts Scholar, Music

March 2024

*Arts Scholar Third-Year Award Outcome Report*

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## NEW YORK SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Thanks to the generous support of the Miller Arts Scholars, I was able to live in New York City last summer to bring about immense personal artistic development. Enumerated below are multiple experiences which were incredibly meaningful to me, certainly not entirely exhausting every single occurrence of my wonderful summer

### STUDIO RECITAL: Summer Sing

Having worked before with Diana Kazakova, a dear friend of my aunt, we were able to efficiently and successfully produce a recital for her vocal studio. Her studio includes musicians of many experience levels, ranging from elementary school enthusiasts to those in intense music study. Communicating with this diverse group of people was a fun challenge, requiring me to continually edit my language to be accessible and helpful. In terms of my involvement, I created graphics, promoted the event on social media, collected and managed tips and finances, compiled (and, in some cases, created via MuseScore) sheet music, arranged accompaniment, collected media during the event, stood by with lyrics, and, performed in the recital!



Diana Kazakova and Andrew Fox

[If I Loved You](#), Alex Burijon, Don't Tell Mama

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### WORKSHOPS

- [Micah Barnes](#)

Micah Barnes, a friend of Diana Kazakova from Canadian musical circles, led a workshop wherein many talented performers gathered to learn how to best convey their stories. Held in legendary Ripley-Grier, these few hours were a time where I explored embodying my authentic self on the stage in front of any audience. In addition, I intently observed as others presented their art and received notes, learning how to best receive feedback.



- [Studio Recital Preparation](#)

In preparation for “Summer Sing,” Diana led several workshops centered around peer-to-peer feedback. Within these gatherings, performers presented and received others’ thoughts. After receiving their and Diana’s more constructive feedback, we performed multiple times, preparing for the final outcome at Don’t Tell Mama.

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### VIEWINGS

- **Lincoln Center, Summer for the City**

I attended nearly every event of the Lincoln Center’s “Summer for the City” series, most of them boasting free admission. This included casual, outdoor events of folk and funk bands as well as more formal orchestral events, see (“Mostly Mozart”). Because I was in such frequent attendance, I became familiar with other recurring faces and made some connections along the way. Many of these friendships blossomed later in the summer, but I was offered many resources for continuing down artistic paths as a college student. One highlight of the Lincoln Center’s performances included seeing UVa’s own Corey Harris, recorded [here](#).

- **Bryant Park Picnic Performances**

In addition to the Lincoln Center’s outdoor events, Bryant Park held many performances over a wide berth of genres, ranging from opera to folk to jazz to chamber music. These performances were generally free, allowing me to attend multiple. In one instance, a virtuosic [cello and violin duo](#) performed, [joined by a vocalist](#) portraying the melody line of their classical piece.

- **Summerstage**

Summerstage performances, hosted at Central Park, were another incredible avenue through which to experience the rich arts of New York City. Many events I attended at no cost, but I attended larger events thanks to the gifts of some friends. I had the absolute luxury of watching **Garbage** and the **Indigo Girls**, acquainting myself with many audience members at both events. Seeing the Indigo Girls during Pride month introduced me to many lovely lesbians who were generously offering me advice as I began a life in the City; I collected contact information from a few who offered me assistance later in the summer.



Indigo Girls



Garbage

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- **Birdland**

Due to the high entrance costs of many jazz clubs, I was not able to fully immerse myself in jazz scenes, but I did have the opportunity to join the audience when a friend was performing at Birdland. He generously introduced me to [Susie Mosher](#), the MC of the evening, who explained how I might audition for her series. I could not gather resources in time to do so, but I look forward to auditioning in the future.



- **Life of Pi**

I saw one of the last shows of *Life of Pi* on Broadway with rush tickets! My UVA friend who came to visit secured seats near the stage, making an already immersive show more visceral. The staging, effects, and storytelling were



phenomenal, certainly inspiring artistic excellence.

- **Barbie movie in Times Square**

During the Barbenheimer craze, I saw the Barbie movie in Times Square with my friend from Richmond!

- **Shakespeare in the Park, Hamlet**

Shakespeare in the Park tickets, secured by a free lottery, were very accessible and lent me exposure to incredible adaptations of Shakespeare's works, especially Hamlet.

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### CULTURE

- Drag show, Hell's Kitchen
- Metropolitan Museum of Art

Thanks to my aunt's membership at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, I went many times to study their plethora of art.

- New York Historical Society

One of few events I was able to attend at the New York Historical Society was the screening and conversation of [\*Coded: The Hidden Love of J.C. Leyendecker\*](#). Here, I learned about Queercoding in art, especially in the 1920s and '30s through the rise and fall of J.C. Leyendecker. I asked the panel, composed of Jari Jones, Ignacio Darnaude, Devon Hong, and Marcos Chin, how to go about making Queer art in a landscape that is suppressing Queerness (as seen in the Great Depression into the Roaring Twenties). I received very thoughtful advice

from them and other audience members. I once again was introduced to many wonderful artists while viewing the exhibition afterwards, even meeting an illustrator from Richmond, VA!



- Pride

I enmeshed in deeply welcoming communities during New York Pride in June. I began with a Pride Rally before hearing live music in Christopher Street and Christopher Park, parading in the Dyke March, and connecting with vendors at the Pride Market.

- Museums, historical sites, etc.

There were many historical sites I was able to visit not listed above, including the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Apollo Theater, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (especially the Marking Time exhibit). I'm excited to acquaint myself with more New York scenes in the future!