

NATS Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition

We, Wesley Diener and Josephine Miller, are applying for an Art Scholars Minigrant to support our participation and representation of the University of Virginia at the Mid-Atlantic Regional NATS Singing Competition.

In February, we competed at the state level of the annual National Association of Teachers of Singing competition. We received Honors, indicating excellent performance by a score of at least 85 out of 100 points, in both our classical and musical theatre categories. Josephine placed 1st in her classical sophomore women category and Wesley placed 2nd in his musical theatre freshman/sophomore men category. The Virginia NATS competition is extremely competitive, bringing together students from distinguished music programs such as James Madison University and Shenandoah Conservatory with adjudication from esteemed professors and teachers in the state. It is a wonderful opportunity to represent the University of Virginia so prominently at this annual competition, especially as the music department grows within the University, most notably with the addition of the Performance Concentration to which we are both applicants.

As recipients of the Honors Distinction in our categories, we are eligible to proceed to the Regional level, which will take place at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina on March 18 and 19. Unlike past competitions that have taken place at nearby locations (George Mason University, University of Maryland, etc.), this round's distant location commits us to a greater financial investment via transportation and hotels, in addition to our usual registration and pianist fees. In order to feasibly attend this year's regional competition, we are requesting the support of Art Scholars via a minigrant. Through our participation, we will be able to compete at a more advanced level, receiving invaluable commentary from expert teachers and potentially earning awards that bolster our resumes and the University's artistic reputation. Furthermore, success at the regional level would qualify us to participate at the national level in Chicago this summer. Last year, Wesley placed 2nd in musical theatre and 3rd in classical at the Regional competition and competed as one of 12 semifinalists at the final national competition in Greensboro, North Carolina. Beyond the scope of competition, the NATS competitions always feature highly valuable lectures, workshops, and masterclasses. In the past, we have been able to learn from Stephen Smith (Julliard, Aspen Music Festival), Trineice Robinson-Martin (Columbia University), and Matthew Edwards (Shenandoah Conservatory). With the support of Art Scholars, we hope to represent ourselves, the Miller Art Scholars, our teacher, Pamela Beasley, and the University at these esteemed competitions.

Timeline

March 17 – Travel via car to Charleston, South Carolina

March 18 – Compete in musical theatre categories, attend workshops

March 19 – Compete in classical categories, attend workshops

March 20 – Return to Charlottesville via car

Budget

Gas (approx.. 22 gallons) - - - - -	\$40
Hotel Rooms (2 Rooms, 2 Nights) - - - - -	-\$480
Registration Fees (4 Categories) - - - - -	\$100
Pianist Fees - - - - -	\$100
Total - - - - -	\$720

Clearly this budget exceeds the \$500 limit on the Art Scholar Minigrant. However, we are both willing to personally assume our individual costs for competition that would be expected of any round regardless of travel expenses (Registration, Pianist). Therefore, we are requesting the full \$500 to fund our gas expenditures and hotel rooms.