

A Return to Broadway: Fall 2021 Minigrant Outcome Report

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Overview: Originally, I planned to attend three Broadway shows while I was back home in New York during winter break: *Hamilton*, *Waitress*, and *Company*. Due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases and risks posed by the omicron variant, many productions closed their doors during the period I was home; I also did not feel comfortable attending any indoor shows while living with immunocompromised family members. I instead decided to attend a choral performance in D.C. and a production of *Pipeline* at Live Arts in Charlottesville, reserving the remaining funds for future Broadway experiences this summer.

Participating in choral ensembles has been a large aspect of my musical enrichment at UVA, and I plan to continue singing in community choirs after I graduate in May. The Washington Chorus, a premier independent chorus based in the D.C. area, presented their December *Candlelight Christmas* concert at the Kennedy Center, under the artistic direction of Eugene Rogers. The concert was grand, featuring a candlelight processional, audience caroling, guest performances from local high schools, and an orchestra. Right from the start, I was stunned by the chorus' blend; it was the first time that I heard wind instruments being played indoors in months due to the pandemic, and I left the concert filled with holiday cheer.

Upon returning to Charlottesville in January, I attended Live Arts' production of Dominique Morisseau's *Pipeline*, a captivating play about the school-to-prison pipeline that features works of poetry like Gwendolyn Brooks' *We Real Cool*. Through *Pipeline*, I learned about theatre's educational power; the actors delivered raw, emotional performances, tackling themes like divorce, police bias, and school expulsion through the nuanced lens of individual relationships. I look forward to attending two more productions when I return to New York – *The Music Man* and *Hamilton* – and continuing to reflect on the social dynamics of theatre.

Expense Report:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>A Candlelight Christmas</i> Concert Tickets, presented by the Washington Chorus at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.	\$45.60
<i>Pipeline</i> Tickets, presented by Live Arts at the Gibson Theater in Charlottesville, VA	\$22.50
<i>Hamilton</i> Ticket, Broadway*	\$175.00
<i>The Music Man</i> Ticket, Broadway*	\$212.00
Transportation*	\$45.00
Total:	\$500.00

**Indicates an upcoming purchase for Summer 2022.*

I am extremely grateful to the Miller Arts program for the opportunity to attend live choral concerts and theatrical productions, especially after a long, pandemic-induced hiatus. The experience offered by in-person performances is a tremendous tool in enhancing personal growth as an artist, and I am eager to implement observed vocal and acting strategies as I continue along my creative journey.