

A Return to Broadway

Benjamin Trombetta, Miller Arts Scholar in Music

On a frigid December afternoon in 2019, I attended a Broadway performance of *Hadestown*, a poignant retelling of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice; little did I know that would be the last time I enjoyed in-person theater for two years. Growing up right in the suburbs of New York City, I always took the opportunity to hop on a train and see a Broadway show for granted. Until recently, all the lights on Broadway were dark due to the COVID-19 pandemic; now, thanks to high vaccination rates, mask efficacy, and social distancing measures, theaters are slowly reopening, and I am eager to return during the holiday break.

In order to become a more well-rounded performer, I am requesting \$500 to cover transportation to New York City and tickets for three Broadway shows. Each semester in voice lessons with Mrs. Pamela Beasley, I work on a variety of classical and musical theatre repertoire, most recently “A Bit of Earth” from *The Secret Garden* and “On the Street Where You Live” from *My Fair Lady*. By attending Broadway shows, I will internalize the various concepts discussed during my voice lessons that can be challenging to grasp without recent experience seeing professional theatre and, in turn, be able to perform musical theatre selections with a higher degree of emotional depth.

Timeline:

- October – November: Purchase tickets to various Broadway shows from vendors like Broadway.com and TodayTix as seats become available. Monitor COVID policies to ensure safety while attending the performances.
- December – January: Attend Broadway shows while in New York for the holiday break. Write down thoughts after each show to help process lessons learned from actors.
- Spring Semester: Implement new skills while preparing musical theatre selections in weekly voice lessons with Mrs. Beasley.

Budget:

Expense	Amount	Details
<i>Hamilton</i> Ticket	\$175	Rear mezzanine seat*
<i>Waitress</i> Ticket	\$125	Rear Mezzanine seat*
<i>Company</i> Ticket	\$110	Mezzanine seat*
Transportation	\$90	4 round-trip off-peak Metro North train tickets from Pleasantville, NY to Grand Central Station at \$22.50 each
Total Cost	\$500	I recognize that this is the maximum amount I am able to request. I would graciously appreciate any funding from the Miller Arts Program to help me accomplish my musical goals.

*All Broadway ticket costs include handling fees and are based on average prices from reliable vendors like Broadway.com and TodayTix. Selected shows are subject to change, depending on availability later in the fall. Should the cost of tickets amount to over \$500, I will cover additional fees with personal funds.