

The Power of Music

Malinda Wagstaff, a talented artist on the stage in her time at Saint George's and now at the Eastman School of Music, had the opportunity to participate in the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop in 2018. Over the course of three weeks in Atlanta, Georgia, Wagstaff and other singers worked on dance, acting, diction, and professional skills.

During the workshop, Wagstaff practiced and performed in two full-length operas, both works by Americans - "The Ballad of Baby Doe" by Douglas Moore and "Little Women" by Mark Adamo. An additional program featured single scenes from various shows. Wagstaff performed as Countess Charlotte in a scene from "A Little Night Music" and as the second spirit in "Die Zauberflöte."

Along with showcasing her practiced talent through performances, there also were master classes to sing for professionals who "have had successful careers in the world of music." Wagstaff worked one on one with W. Dwight Coleman, a renowned baritone who has performed across the nation. These opportunities will help her to grow as a performer, "developing new colors in my voice" and gaining more confidence for when she sings challenging music in the future.

Wagstaff is passionate about opera because "people feel something when they watch a performance. Although the stories occasionally seem 'over the top' for people in our day, I think the richness of emotions is something we can relate to."

At Eastman, opera students take several years of foreign languages, including French, German, and Italian. "During one performance at

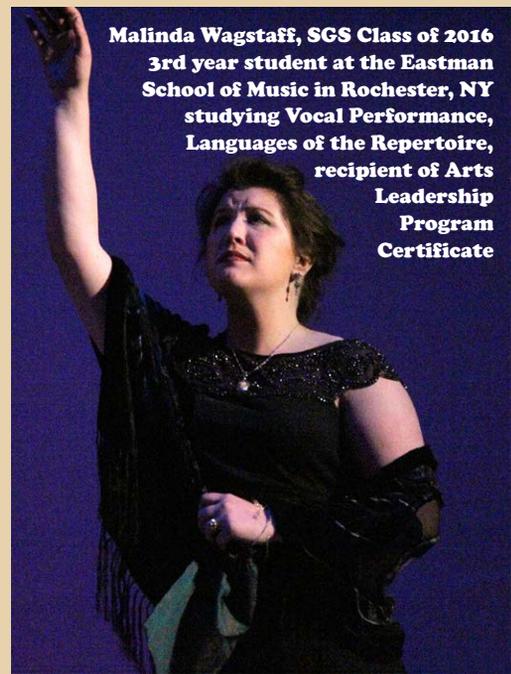
an outreach event, I sang a piece in German. I performed a translation of the piece that I had done myself, and afterwards a couple from Germany came to discuss it with me. They were so touched to hear that I was treating the language with respect and really taking the time to learn it."

Wagstaff looks forward to performing for several years before becoming a voice professor and earning the title of "master of pedagogy." In a more general way, she hopes to give back by inspiring the next generation of artists and develop programs where art serves the wider community. "I firmly believe that music is for everyone, and I hope to develop ways to bring more art to communities where there is less music per capita."

"Music can help heal people who are hurting, and I want to use this power to make a difference."



Above: Malinda in "A Little Night Music"
Right: With the music from "The Ballad of Baby Doe"



Malinda Wagstaff, SGS Class of 2016
3rd year student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY
studying Vocal Performance, Languages of the Repertoire,
recipient of Arts Leadership Program Certificate

"I hope to teach and inspire the next generation of performers, and I also hope to touch the lives of community members through music."

