

Further success in my life would be extremely difficult to obtain without additional education. With the plans I have of being an opera singer and voice teacher, I can't get anywhere without training. And that education and training requires funding that I don't have.

The BHS Voices places a heavy emphasis on sight-reading music. Throughout my high school career, I have had the opportunity to teach other students how to accomplish this. This skill has not gone unrecognized. I have been selected for South Carolina's All-State Choir in 2010, 2011, and 2012. The audition process for this choir includes sight-singing as well as performing a choral piece in a quintet. I have also been the soprano section leader for two years and have been selected for an auditioned ensemble within the general choir at Beaufort High. Singing has been my passion for as long as I can remember and Beaufort High School has only made it more fervent.

I have also recently begun taking voice lessons. This is what truly inspired me to pursue opera as my future career and ultimately operate a voice studio from my home. The intimate, personalized training that exists in voice lessons is what really allowed my voice to advance. Through these sessions, my potential to perform in operas has been revealed. In addition to this discovery, voice lessons have given me a passion to teach as my instructor does. I prefer the private nature of these meetings to the more generalized gatherings of the classroom setting. The dedication of the students is obvious in the lessons considering that the individual is paying for and scheduling them on their own accord. However, in a classroom, it is not always expected that each pupil has a passion for music. I favor the serious, committed student over the inexperienced, untried learner.

Music is extremely important and beneficial and is often pushed aside. Opera is also a dying art form; I hope to contribute to the goal of keeping this music in the lives of everyone, especially youth. The School of Music at the University of South Carolina offers much, including a major in music performance and a minor in music entrepreneurship, which I plan to pursue. The degree in music performance will help me to appear more appealing to opera companies. The minor in music entrepreneurship will equip me with skills to earn an income with a music degree. I hope that it will improve my management skills for when I ultimately operate my own voice studio and also assist me in earning additional revenue during my opera career. These educational tools will help me to further my musical ambitions.

Immediately after receiving my degree, I plan to audition and perform in operas. As of now, I plan to pursue a position at the Atlanta Opera Company because it is nearby. This occupation will jump start my ultimate career goal of managing a voice studio from home. Having experience in the world of performance will build my credibility as a voice instructor. Working from my house will uphold my life goal of being the best mother and wife possible. My goal in life is to assume an active role in the lives of my children and to always place family first. By supervising a business from home, I will be able to create my own work schedule and to remain physically present in my family's life while simultaneously generating income.

In addition to my primary goal of being in my children's' lives full-time, my future careers will keep music alive. As I stated previously, music is often neglected and seen as unimportant. It is often the first program cut from schools trying to maintain a budget. This is unfortunate and I hope to contribute to the preservation of the study of music. My goal in life is to always be musical, to inspire with song. Through opera and voice instruction, this goal can come alive.

I am the eldest of four siblings, all born within six years of each other. My dad works full time and my mom manages the home. With so many children, there are many activities requiring money and the supply can be quickly spread thin. All four of us have college plans and so any amount of aid would be tremendously beneficial. I will have a full-time job this summer as a lifeguard and have been working part-time throughout the school year. However, this income is not nearly enough to cover expenses. I

will be attending the University of South Carolina's Honors College and the incoming freshman class is extremely competitive. Merit scholarships will be particularly difficult to obtain because of the exceptionally high intelligence of this particular

class. Any funding to assist me in clearing these hurdles will be greatly appreciated.

Any amount will relieve some burden of my parents, will aid me in my pursuit of a career in music, and will ultimately touch every life I affect. I can only hope that you will help me to further my studies and ultimately positively move many in my lifetime.

By: Samantha Crandall