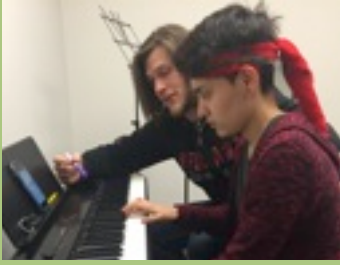


city voices

Spring 2016 Opus 3, No. 2



KEYBOARD CLASS
P. 2



PROFILE: SARA ROUTH
P. 5



PROFILE: SHAFIE OMAR
P. 4



ACT-SO
P. 2

It's been a great year!

City Voices is wrapping up another school year of lessons, with some great accomplishments to be proud of!

STAY TUNED - THE 2016 SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

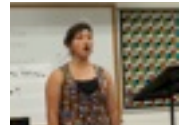
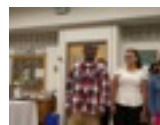


Wrapping up our 3rd year, we are thrilled to look back on a year of accomplishment and achievement by our students! We have had students singing with the Empowered

Womens' Chorus at the World Food Prize Award Ceremony and with the Greater Des Moines Diversity Chorus at their winter concert. Seven of our students earned lead roles on their home high school musical stage, including two who were then nominated as "Triple Threat" candidates in the Iowa High School Music Theater Awards program. Two students were selected to be a part of the 600-member Iowa All-State Chorus, out of only four city-wide. Once again, a City Voices student won the NAACP's ACT-SO contest, and will be performing at the National Convention in Cincinnati in July. Three students were awarded a performing slot at the Iowa High School Speech Association's Individual All-State Festival. City Voices students received seven Highly Superior ratings at the Iowa High School Music Association's Solo/Small Ensemble

contest in April, and performed in numerous home school concerts.

But we are also sad to bid farewell to several of our "charter" students - they were among the first to sign up for our pilot program in the summer of 2013, and they are now graduating and preparing to move on to college and careers. North students Daniela Ortiz,



Mayte Gomez-Cruz, Duncan Vivanh, and Kameron James have been a part of City Voices from the summer of 2013 until now. We will miss them, along with Roosevelt seniors Kendall Bruce, Ruquiyah Muhammad, Sylvia Visser and Trent Schwab, Hoover seniors Maddy Sheets, Courtnei Caldwell, and Emma Hodges, East senior Julian Frias, and Urbandale senior Allegra Hernandez. Most of these students will present a senior recital on Thursday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. - don't miss your chance to say good-bye and enjoy the remarkable talent they have developed!

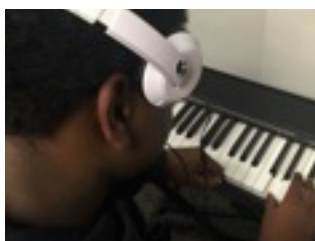


ACT-SO AGAIN A SUCCESS!

On Saturday, April 9, 3 City Voices students took part in the NAACP's annual ACT-SO Scholarship Competition.

With 26 categories ranging from Entrepreneurship to Photography to Cooking to Vocal Music, ACT-SO is a yearlong program designed to encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American students. City Voices students have done

very well in the Des Moines preliminary contest, having crowned a winner in each of the last 3 contests. This year was no exception: Kameron James (12, North) was selected to move on to National Competition this summer at the National Convention in Cincinnati by virtue of his winning performance of "I Am Adolfo" (from The Drowsy Chaperone) in Contemporary Vocal Performance. This is Kameron's 2nd win: last year he represented Des Moines in Philadelphia in Classical Vocal Performance. Kendall Bruce (12, Roosevelt) and Heaven Booker (10, Roosevelt) also participated.



Keyboard Class Rocks!

When City Voices affiliated with City Music, the Berklee College of Music's nationwide consortium of 47 out-of-schooltime music education programs dedicated to improving access for students from underserved communities, access was granted to their innovative online PULSE theory system. PULSE, an acronym for Pre-University Learning System Experience, offers a collection of online lessons and materials that support classroom instruction. We knew that this was a valuable tool that would be valuable for students - enter Chris Powell, City Voices Teaching Artist, and a skilled singer and keyboardist.

Chris has developed a keyboard class that uses the PULSE lessons as well as his own innovative techniques - and students are thriving. Lessons range from scales to key signatures to positioning of hands on the keyboard to most easily play chords. But above all, students learn to do what they most wish - to be able to play and sing songs of their own choosing.

In keeping with noted music educator Christopher Small's assertion that "music is not a thing, it is an activity," we at City Voices have created an environment where students can interact with and create their own music in the ways they do every day, and will continue to do lifelong - as Small says, "from composing to performing to listening to a Walkman to singing in the shower."

<https://soundcloud.com/user-669729072/ordinary-people-jason-koromo>

Students have learned to play their favorite songs, as well as move them to new keys - and getting a healthy dose of music theory at the same time, as they learn to understand key relationships in a truly meaningful way. In addition, they are having fun doing it! Check it out by cut-and-pasting the URL above - Jason Koromo sings and accompanies himself on "Ordinary People," by John Legend.

City Voices in the Community

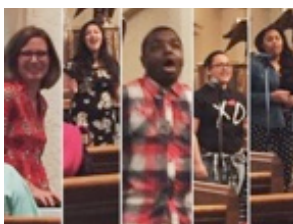
City Voices students continue to give back to their school and community through their activities. Read about some of them below!

City Voices at Luther



City Voices student Tiffany Koger (11, Roosevelt) provided music for the service at Luther Memorial Church in Des Moines. Luther has included City Voices in a College, Congregation and Community Grant, awarded by the ELCA's Always Being Made New campaign. They have provided us space for lessons and summer programs, as well as a beautiful recital space! We are happy to give back in this way!

City Voices at St. John's



City Voices students Mayte Gomez-Cruz, Daniela Ortiz, Kameron James (all 12, North), Kendall Bruce and Trent Schwab (both 12, Roosevelt) sang at the Midweek Music recital at St. John's Lutheran Church. This is the second year City Voices students have been featured in a Wednesday recital!

City Voices at Solo Contest



City Voices students Kendall Bruce (12, Roosevelt), Daniela Ortiz (12, North), Mayte Gomez-Cruz (12, North), Duncan Vivanh (11, North), Emma Hodges (12, Hoover), and Terry Nguyen (11, Hoover) participated in the Iowa High School Music Association's Solo and Small Ensemble Contest in April, held at Valley High School. Kendall, Daniela, Mayte and Duncan were all awarded Division I ratings, the highest rating possible, and Daniela and Mayte received a second Division I as part of their women's ensemble.

City Voices in IHSSA



City Voices students Mayte Gomez-Cruz, Daniela Ortiz, and Kameron James, all North seniors, were judged as the most outstanding in their District Center, and so were selected to perform at the Iowa High School Speech Association's All-State Festival in Cedar Falls. Mayte and Kameron were both chosen in Individual Music Theater, and Daniela in Lit Program. Mayte sang "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" from **Evita** in Spanish and English, and Kameron sang "I Am Adolfo" from **The Drowsy Chaperone**. All 3 of these students were also featured performers in North's fall production of "Peter Pan."



In addition, City Voices students Heaven Booker (10), Shafie Omar (11), Demarius Fisher (11), Tiffany Koger (11), Laura Diaz (11), Laila Williams (10), J'Ceon Jefferson (10), Ben Harper (10), Jordan Harris (11), Tye Jones (10), Hasija Terzic (10), Kendall Bruce (12), DaJoan Evans (12), and Cal Reed (12) are all a part of Roosevelt's production of "Shrek: The Musical" nominated for "Outstanding Production" at the 2016 Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards. Demarius Fisher (Donkey) and Cal Reed (Shrek) are both also nominated in the "Triple Threat" category, for demonstrating "excellent acting, dancing and vocal talents" in their roles. Tiffany Koger (Dragon) has received "Special Recognition for Performance in a Supporting Role." The awards are at the Civic Center on June 6.

New Ways of Singing

A profile of City Voices student Shafie Omar, Roosevelt High School.



When Shafie Omar (11, Roosevelt) arrived in the United States a short three years ago from Yemen, he didn't speak much English. In fact, just getting through every day was difficult: he often knew what teachers were asking, but he didn't know how to answer them in English, so he found himself in trouble more often than not. One of his teachers, however, recognized something special - and Lori Glawe, theater arts teacher, began to work with him and encourage him to take part in drama productions. Over the next year, Shafie's English skills improved markedly thanks to his work in the theater classroom; so much so that he got to the point where he decided that he wanted to take part in Roosevelt's annual fall musical. Leaving football practice for just a few moments, Shafie bravely stood on stage and sang - and found himself cast as the Bishop in the very successful production of "Shrek."

But he wanted more - he had served as a songleader at his school in Yemen, leading the student body in short songs every morning that inspired them to study hard. But, as he said, "I wanted to experience the northern ways of singing." So when Mrs. Glawe approached him about taking private lessons through City Voices, he jumped at the chance.

His experience in "Shrek" had allowed him to do ensemble singing, but solo singing was another thing entirely. As he said, "I didn't used to feel comfortable with my voice and singing in front of people and I always thought I wouldn't sound good if I were to sing in English." But after a year of study, now he says "all of that changed when I joined City Voices." The first song that he studied was "The Water is Wide," and that remains his favorite so far. In fact, he sang this song at the 2015 City Voices Winter Recital. He said, "I was nervous about it at first, but it went great." He also enjoys the song he is currently studying "Above the Clouds of Pompeii," because it is "way beautiful."

While he keeps very busy playing football at Roosevelt, and also working at both the YMCA and Hy-Vee (to save for a car), he says that he loves "singing with Mrs. Sims every Tuesday and laughing and learning new ways of singing and seeing myself being better." And now he has begun to study the guitar as well: and says "I think I am already natural at it (just kidding!)" But one thing is not a joke - and that is that Shafie has definitely mastered a "new way of singing!"

Beginning Again



Sara Routh has had many beginnings.

First as a teacher at Smouse School in Des Moines. Then as an aspiring Broadway singer in New York, followed by, in order, Los Angeles, Australia, China, and LA again, where she won accolades and awards for her solo albums "Road(s)" and "Black Sheep" - the latter being awarded the LA Critics Award for Best E.P.-Female Artist in 2015. After all of these experiences, and that kind of success, it would seem as though she would not seek any more beginnings - but this Norwalk native had at least two more beginnings to come: a move back to her native Iowa, and a new job as a Teaching Artist with City Voices.

Sara began teaching with City Voices this past school year, continuing a successful teaching career that she has cultivated at every stop. In a way she has come full circle, for in high school she studied privately as well: piano, clarinet, guitar, bass guitar, and voice. She also has learned to play drums, tenor sax, flute and vibraphone, although she admits "Would have to practice a bit to refresh my memory." She especially loved her private voice lessons, because "they gave me a chance to work on different material I couldn't work on in school." She also used those private lessons to earn a slot in the School of Music at Simpson College, in Indianola, where she earned a Bachelor of Music Education. After student teaching, however, she began to feel pulled in different directions - her time spent in different cities and countries were filled with lots of musical experiences, including writing an entire musical in Shanghai, China (an accomplishment she names as her most proud moment), and starting a children's book, which will eventually have music. She always returned to performing, however, and continues to maintain a busy performance schedule

here in Des Moines and all over the country - in fact, in March, she completed a multi-state tour of the Midwest/West in support of her latest album. (You can keep up with her busy schedule at www.sararouth.com).

Sara also uses what she learned in private lessons in her teaching now: she says it has enriched her teaching, and that allowing students to develop an idea of "what THEY want to learn is far more uplifting than me giving them something...that they may not connect with." She emphasizes "My philosophy is to teach my students [that] they are in control of their progress. Learn about the proper vocal pedagogy in a fun and relatable way. Not every student needs to be trained in a classical manner. But every student needs to learn how to use their instrument without hurting themselves."

This kind of positive reinforcement has quickly made her a student favorite. Karriem Muhammad (9, North) described her, saying "She makes City Voices the highlight of my week with her outgoing attitude and outgoing voice!" Tyrell Jones (11, Roosevelt) said, "She has helped me locate the potential I needed to be where I am now. She is truly amazing and I love her - I don't believe I would be where I am now without her." From her perspective, she says her favorite part of teaching is "seeing the smile on my student's face when they accomplish a challenging part of a song. To know that they have put in the work and have climbed to the top of the mountain and can see over the edge... that's an amazing moment." Amazing, yes - but no more so than having built a life of beginnings - and we know that she is just getting started!



The 2016 City Voices Summer Music Academy

is just around the corner! It will take place June 6-July 29 this year! We will have some returning classes and some new offerings - but all of them will be relevant to students' total musical education as well as FUN! (See below for descriptions!) Classes will be held at several locations, including the City Voices Studio at 6100 Grand, and Luther Memorial Church at 1201 Grandview Ave. Both are on a DART Bus Route.

Ready to sign up? Or know someone who is? Go to www.cityvoicesdesmoines.org/summer_music_academy and you can sign up online!



Song Writing

Join our newest Teaching

Artist, Sara Routh, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, July 11-29, for our new Song Writing class! Learn from a real professional how to translate your ideas into actual music!

Group Guitar

Join our newest Teaching Artist, Sara

Routh, for a new class in Group Guitar! Learn how to play the basics, in a small group of your peers! Join us Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 11-29, from 10-11 a.m. At the end of 3 weeks, you will be able to perform a song! No guitar necessary!



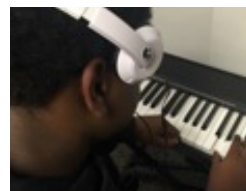
Music Theater Camp

Join City Voices alum

and current Columbia College (Chicago) Music Theater major Michael Xayavong and friends and enter the wonderful world of music theater! Learn about auditioning, dance, acting tips, "the biz," and perform a music theater song chosen specifically for you! June 20-July 1, Luther Memorial Church.

Individual Guitar

Sign up for Individual Guitar lessons, taught by Teaching Artist Dang Felton and others. Lessons will be individually scheduled!



Keyboard Theory

Join Teaching Artist Chris Powell at our popular Keyboard Theory Class, featuring Berklee College of Music's renowned online PULSE theory lessons. Learn the basics of music theory, using contemporary music, in a relevant and FUN way, and learn to accompany yourself on the keyboard!



Performance Project

It's back! The popular Music Production class led by Teaching Artist Larry Moore. What will it be? That's up to YOU - but we know it's gonna be awesome! Learn about mixing, recording, and creating in a fun group!

City Voices Bids Farewell to our Super Seniors!



We are sad to see a big class of seniors go, but we are proud of everything they have accomplished at their schools, in their community, and at City Voices!

Mayte Gomez-Crus

Graduating from North High School. Will attend the University of Iowa, studying Music Therapy.

Daniela Ortiz

Graduating from North High School. Will attend the University of Kansas, studying Music Therapy.

Allegra Hernandez

Graduating from Urbandale High School. Auditioning for McNally-Smith College (Minneapolis), where she hopes to study music.

Sylvia Visser

Graduating from Roosevelt High School. Will attend the University of Iowa, after a gap semester, studying Art History and Business, with a certificate in Museum Studies. She also plans to start a band! :)

Duncan Vivanh

Graduating from North High School. Will attend the University of Iowa, where he is undecided major: he eventually may study Music Education and/or Music Therapy.

Courtnei Caldwell

Graduating from Hoover High School. Will attend Drake University to pursue Acting and Journalism with a minor in Musical Theater.

Maddy Sheets

Graduating from Hoover High School. Will be attending Columbia College (Chicago) to study Music Theater.

Kameron James

Graduating from North High School. Hopes to attend Southwestern Community College.

Trent Schwab

Graduating from Roosevelt High School. Will attend either Southwestern Community College or Iowa Central Community College to study music, and possibly play rugby.

Julian Frias

Graduating from East High School. College undecided - may attend DMACC.



Kendall Bruce

Graduating from Roosevelt High School. Will attend Southwestern Community College School of Music Vocations to study Vocal Performance, after which she hopes to transfer to Columbia College (Chicago).

Ruquiyah Muhammed

Graduating from Roosevelt High School. Will attend Southwestern Community College School of Music Vocations to study Music.

Mission Statement:

City Voices is a nonprofit organization that provides high quality, individualized voice instruction to underserved students in the Des Moines Public Schools. It is our belief that helping students build these skills allows them to more effectively participate in vocal music opportunities around them, including their school and community programs. We also believe that, in doing so, we are mitigating inequalities, allowing students access to experiences that are frequently out of reach due to a lack of financial resources.

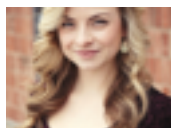
Our Staff



Mary Anne Sims, B.Music, M.A. Music Education, Executive Director



Amanda Lowe, B.S. Music Therapy, Teaching Artist



Chelsea Dubczak, B. Music, Teaching Artist



Chris Powell, B. A. Vocal Performance, Teaching Artist



Corey Wedeking, B. Music, Teaching Artist



Sara Routh, B.M.Ed., Teaching Artist



Larry Moore, B.S. Psychology, M.A.T. Education



Dang Felton, Teaching Artist

How You Can Help!



•Through Amazon Smile - For every purchase you make, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price directly to City Voices! Get your gift list fulfilled and support your local high school singers at the same time! <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0988104>



•Through PayPal - just go to <https://cityvoicesdesmoines.org/how-you-can-help/> and click on the PayPal button - it's safe, secure, and easy!

• Or: you can mail your donation to City Voices, 924 45th Street, Des Moines, IA 50312

Thank you to the following supporters for contributions our last fiscal year:



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Vanessa Brady
Angie Larson & Russ Lackey (Luther Memorial)
Michael Xayavong
Matthew Hawkins
Bob, Caitlin & Anna Sims
Alex Snodgrass
Joyce Lowe

Join us on Thursday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. for the City Voices Senior Recital! Featuring student-chosen sets! Don't miss it!

Luther Memorial Church, 1201 Grandview Ave., Des Moines



City Voices
924 45th Street
Des Moines, IA 50312