



QUARTER NOTES



CITY VOICES WOMEN AT THE
WORLD FOOD PRIZE CEREMONY
AT THE IOWA STATE CAPITOL

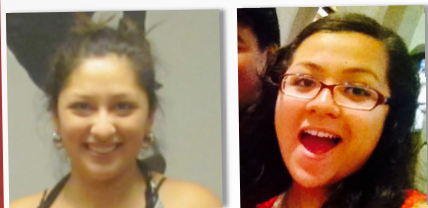


New Year, New Achievements

CityVoices students began the 2015-16 school year right where they left off - using their skills to help them to ever higher vocal music achievement! On October 15, 2015, 12 young women from CityVoices joined singers from Heartland Youth Chorale and Drake

University to become part of the "EmpoweredVoices Chorus," singing "I Am Woman," a tune made famous by Helen Reddy, arranged by CityVoices Executive Director Mary Anne Sims, and featuring CityVoices Teaching Artist Katy Merriman as solo. The 2015 World

Food Prize was awarded to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh, the internationally renowned founder and chairperson of BRAC, an anti-poverty/ food security organization that focuses, in part, on the role of women in cultural change.



LIFELONG AMBITIONS: A TALE
OF TWO SINGERS

P. 2



CITY VOICES STUDENTS TAKE
THE STAGE
P. 3



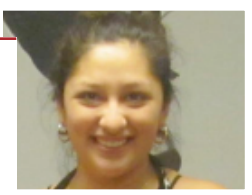
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

P. 4

A Tale of Two Singers

CityVoices students enroll in voice lessons for many reasons: the desire to make an auditioned school choir or a lead musical role, the urge to become a leader within their home school music program, or simply the self-confidence to present themselves in front of other people. Some students, however, want to use the skills they learn in lessons throughout the rest of their lives, in arts-related careers. Daniela Ortiz and Mayte Gomez-Cruz are both seniors at North High School who are planning to pursue a career in Music Therapy. We asked them about their experiences.

"I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SING FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE."



Mayte Gomez-Cruz

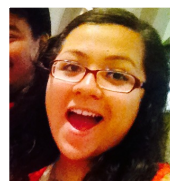
is a very busy young lady. At her school alone, she is a member of Gospel Choir, Chamber Choir, and the Theater Arts program, and she has participated in her school's musicals, IHSSA Drama Musical Theater Competition (where she received a Superior Rating for her performance of "Nothing" last winter), and IHSMA Solo Contest. And that's not counting her 2 jobs, at the YMCA teaching swim lessons, and as an intern at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, or the hard work it takes to maintain her 4.12 GPA, or the numerous college applications she is juggling. But she likes to sing - and that's what ultimately drew her to the offer of lessons in the summer of 2013, one of the first students to go through the CityVoices program. Although she had no experience, and "no idea what private lessons were or how they could help me," she said "I just signed up."

Now well into her 3rd year of private study, (she also studied for one semester with local expert Dina Else, on scholarship) she has expanded her arts horizons well past the one choir she began with. And her familiar giggle signals her favorite part of a lesson: "My favorite [part] is having a breakthrough and hearing how I really sound. It's amazing to hear the power of my voice when I'm not constricted, and I love being able to understand how to control a new aspect of my voice."

Mayte cites "volume, breath support, and vibrato" as her biggest improvements, and says that her favorite song is the aria she is currently studying, "Deh vieni, non tardar," from The Marriage of Figaro, but that she always enjoyed singing "The Inn." She has also studied piano and guitar with the program.

Looking ahead, Mayte wants to study music therapy, and become a music therapist. She says, "I want to be able to sing for the rest of my life and help people at the same time." And with numerous colleges calling, there is no question that she will succeed!

"NOW, SINGING OUT IS ALL I DO."



Daniela Ortiz

loved to sing, and when CityVoices began, nearly 3 years ago, she said, "I thought the opportunity to take FREE voice lessons would only come once in a lifetime, so I grabbed an application in freshman choir." Having no experience with voice lessons whatsoever, she said that she "could not sing out at all, I was so shy." Fast forward to this, her senior year, and Daniela has become a valued leader in her choirs, singing in the

Gospel Choir and as well in the Theater Arts program, where she played Mrs. Darling in Peter Pan this fall, following previous years' roles in Urinetown and the Addams Family. The acting bug is strong: she is also thinking about auditioning for some productions at the Des Moines Playhouse!

When asked about her improvement, Daniela says "I fell like my voice in general has grown so much since the beginning. When I started out, I could not sing out at all, I was so shy. Now, singing out is all I do...I'm so much more confident in myself in myself and how I sound than I ever was before, and I really like that." Her favorite part of the lesson, alongside "singing" is "being able to learn new things about music and the technique of singing." She cites one of her favorite songs studied "Waiting for Life to Begin," from Once On This Island, as really helping her with that. She also calls "Safer," from First Date, "Everything I Know," from In The Heights, Che fiero costume, and El majo discreto as favorites.

Daniela has also studied guitar and piano, and she enjoys playing them in her free time as well, when not working at her 2 jobs, at Smokey D's and Gordmans. She also says that these skills will be valuable in her future major, Music Therapy, which she plans to pursue at the University of Kansas (Go Jayhawks, she says!) She says that this career is perfect, because it will let her use her skills in voice, piano and guitar. And beyond that? She says "I want to be able to use these skills for the rest of my life." And with her drive and ambition, she will indeed be singing out forever!

High School Musicals Feature City Voices Students

City Voices students made their presence known on their home high school stages this year, portraying roles ranging from a fierce dragon, to a rotund egg, to a naive young girl who learns to fly, to a popular cheerleader. Participating in Hoover's production of Jason Robert Brown's "13" was Maddy Sheets (Kendra); participating in North's production of "Peter Pan" was Mercedes Castillo (Peter), Mayte Gomez-Cruz (Wendy), Daniela Ortiz (Mrs. Darling), Kameron James (Smee), Yair Gomez-Cruz (Dukes), and Duncan Vivanh (flight crew). Participating in Roosevelt's production of "Shrek" was Demarius Fisher (Donkey), Cal Reed (Shrek), Tiffany Koger (Dragon), Heaven Booker (Humpty Dumpty), Shafie Omar (Bishop), Laura Diaz (Elf), Jordan Harris (Duloc citizen), Tye Jones (Duloc citizen/feature dancer), J'Ceon Jefferson (Guard), Laila Williams (Duloc citizen/feature dancer), Hasija Terzic (Duloc

citizen), DaJoan Evans (Duloc citizen/feature dancer), and Kendall Bruce (Fairy Godmother). We are proud that these hard-working young people are using their skills to enhance their home schools' music and drama departments!

DON'T MISS THE IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC THEATER AWARDS, SPONSORED BY DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS, AND WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE DES MOINES CIVIC CENTER ON JUNE 6, 2016 - MANY OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EVALUATED AND MAY BE PARTICIPATING FOR AWARDS! STAY TUNED!



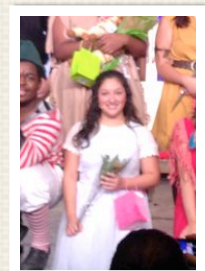
MADDY SHEETS IN "13"



TIFFANY KOGER & DEMARIUS FISHER IN "SHREK"



HEAVEN BOOKER IN "SHREK"



MAYTE GOMEZ-CRUZ IN "PETER PAN"



KAMERON JAMES IN "PETER PAN"



DANIELA ORTIZ IN "PETER PAN"



SHAFIE OMAR IN "SHREK"

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Our 2015 graduates are doing great things in their new educational environments - 5 are studying the arts in colleges around the Midwest, all on scholarship: Rebekah Ostermann (University of Minnesota), Michael Xayavong (Columbia College, Chicago), Matt Hawkins (University of Iowa), Alexis Cole (University of Iowa), and Daniel Lockett (Southwestern Community College). Here are some updates on some of them!



ALEXIS COLE (Roosevelt)

Alexis is attending the University of Iowa studying Directing, with a Vocal Performance minor. She played the other woman in "Dead Man's Cell Phone," and was accepted into an advanced musical theater class for next semester.



MICHAEL XAYAVONG (North)

Michael is attending Columbia College in Chicago and studying Music Theater. He was one of only 21 out of several hundred incoming freshmen selected to perform in "New Stew" - show written specifically for and featuring incoming freshmen "new students." He is enjoying his Dance and Theater classes, and loves the Chicago theater and food scene.



MATT HAWKINS (Roosevelt)

Matthew is attending the University of Iowa and studying Vocal Performance. He is singing in the select Camerata choral group, and studying American Sign Language as well as piano, theory and voice. He is also an Iowa cheerleader, and has sung the National Anthem at several events, including the first Hawkeye women's basketball game.



DANIEL LUCKETT (Roosevelt)

Daniel is attending the School of Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College (SWCC) studying music production and vocal performance. He was selected to be a member of Audio Radiance, a select vocal ensemble focusing on R&B/Soul literature that tours nationally.

THANK YOU

At City Voices, we are very blessed and grateful to have received several grants from corporate sponsors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them!

★We would like to thank the cities that help support our program through the BRAVO Cultural Enrichment Grant for the Fiscal Year 2016! Cultural Enrichment Grants are funded through hotel/motel tax revenue received from partner local governments that have current 28E agreements with BRAVO, including Altoona, Ankeny, Carlisle, Bondurant, Clive, Des Moines, Grimes, Indianola, Johnston, Norwalk, Polk City, Polk County, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines and Windsor Heights. BRAVO Greater Des Moines is a nonprofit committed to increasing cultural awareness, advocacy and funding, as well as fostering collaboration among arts, cultural and heritage organizations.



★We would also like to thank the Wells Fargo Foundation for their grant in support of Individual Voice Lessons.



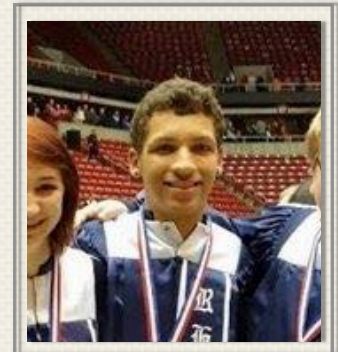
★We would also like to thank the Principal Financial Group for a grant that will help support the continuation of our popular summer keyboard theory class, as well as support more private guitar lessons.



City Voices is thrilled to have been designated by Luther Memorial Church to share in a grant that will allow us to develop a partnership with them, supporting a scholarship for student voice lessons, as well as potential classes in college preparation and other academic concerns of our students. We are so humbled and grateful! More details to come!

APPLAUSE

City Voices students continue to achieve great things! On October 24, 2015, thousands of students around the state auditioned for the Iowa High School Music Association's All-State Chorus; 600 were selected, including City Voices junior Demarius Fisher (Roosevelt), one of only 4 students in the Des Moines Public Schools. This is the second year a City Voices student has been selected (Rebekah Ostermann, North '15, was selected last year). Demarius took his place among the state's best young singers at the concert, November 21, 2015, in Hilton Coliseum in Ames. We are very proud of Demarius, as well as all who auditioned!



THANK YOU to Des Moines Unity Church for allowing us to teach lessons at the church, at 414 31st Street. We are very grateful!

REWIND

City Voices students have had several opportunities to participate in cultural events around the city this fall, for FREE!

* In OCTOBER, City Voices women participated in the World Food Prize Laureate Ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol Building. They were a part of a choir consisting of women from Drake University and Heartland Youth Chorale, directed by Barbara Sletto, and honoring Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh.

* In NOVEMBER, several City Voices students participated in the Des Moines Diversity Chorus's Holiday Concert. Students provided special acts, revolving around the theme of "Relationships." They also provided the solos for choral numbers.

* In DECEMBER, City Voices handed out programs at the Des Moines Choral Society's annual Christmas Concert, along with information about our program.

FAST FORWARD

City Voices students are looking forward to even more opportunities within their community!

* On DECEMBER 22, 7:00 p.m, the good people at Carl's Place (1620 Woodland Ave., Des Moines) are throwing a benefit for City Voices. With an ugly sweater contest, food from Stew's Que, and their fabulous Blues Jam, 100% of all donations will be given to City Voices, in support of our lessons! THANK YOU CARL'S!

* In APRIL, some City Voices students will once again be participating in the NAACP's ACT-SO scholarship contest. Local winners in the Classical Vocal division have gone on to represent Des Moines at the national contest, held in conjunction with the national NAACP convention in summer 2016.

how you can help!



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to City Voices.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know.

Same products, same prices, same service.

Start shopping now at **smile.amazon.com**.

OR this address will take you there directly:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/90-0988104>

Des Moines Diversity Chorus
 Roosevelt High School Class of 1965
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 Des Moines Symphony
 Drake University
 Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community
 Anonymous
 Jeff Couch
 Kathie Danielson
 Dina Else
 Lisa Kamphuis
 Rick Knecht
 Susan Skinner & Mark Movic Charitable Foundation
 Robert & Mary Anne Sims
 Phil & Sharon Walsh
 Catherine Gayle Williams (Scholarship)
 John Armstrong (American Music Literacy Association)
 Amy Christensen
 Patricia Davis
 Bill & Marcia Gilmer
 Susan Hemminger
 Molly House
 Diane Morain
 Andrew & Barb Nish
 John & Alice Sims
 Andy & Sarah Betts Susanin
 Suzanne VanEnglehoven
 Anne & Ivan Webber
 Mike Woody
 Aleta Bagby (In Kind)
 Sarah & Jay Gold

THANK YOU DONORS

Vickie Goldsmith
 Brian Haag
 Jill Thompson Hansen
 Gary & Sally Harris
 Claudia Hawkins
 Sue Breen Held
 Susan Batterton
 Scott & Gayle Butler
 Linda & Larry Christensen
 Barb Dwyer Web Design
 Martha Gelhaus
 Bob & Ann Gernes
 Lori Glawe
 Cynthia Jo Ingham
 Edward & Gloria Kottick
 Charles J. & Mary F. Kunkel
 Randal & Joyce Lowe
 Alan & Regina MacRae
 Kathryn Marean
 Judy Porter
 JoAnn Rodes
 LaDonna Russell (Dale Cowdin Memorial)
 Hubert & Nancy Schroeder
 Linda Shivvers
 Cathy Sims
 Barbara Slinker
 Ian Stillmunks
 Patrick Toal
 Nikki Van Englehoven-Toal
 Susan & Carl Voss
 Lisa Raabe Werth

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.

**Thank you to the wonderful people
 who make City Voices work!**

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

Chelsea Smith, B.Music, Teaching Artist

Dang Felton, Teaching Artist



TIFFANY KOGER, COURTNEI
CALDWELL, ALLEGRA
HERNANDEZ, HEAVEN BOOKER,
LAILA WILLIAMS & KENDALL
BRUCE AT THE CAPITOL



TRENT SCHWAB
(ROOSEVELT)



MERESSA MORAIARTY
(HOOVER)

City Voices
924 45th Street
Des Moines, IA 50312