

city voices

OPUS 5
NUMBER 1

City Voices students at "Breakfast With Santa" at The Tea Room, December 9-10. Students sang carols for a sold-out house both mornings.



Fall Semester Is In the Books!

Chorus Line, Miss Iowa, Omawumi, raking, caroling, Santa, The Nutcracker and more!

It's been an awesome first semester at City Voices Students from all five DMPS high schools studied with our fabulous Teaching Artists, made great achievements in their schools and the community and had a lot of fun as well! From the Des Moines Playhouse to the streets of The Avenues, from The Tea Room to The Civic Center, from the World Food Prize to our very own studio - City Voices students were everywhere, active and thriving. Read about them all inside!



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HAS BEEN SERVING
STUDENTS SINCE

2013

OUR MISSION:

City Voices: an after-school, tuition-free music education program providing disadvantaged students with the skills, opportunity and knowledge necessary to excel in school, community and career.

REPEAT SIGN:

HERE SHE IS: MISS IOWA

It certainly was no surprise to us that Chelsea Dubczak was chosen "Miss Iowa" last summer - and although she did not make the top 10,



it was also no surprise that she won the Non-Finalist Talent Award with her beautiful aria performance. We are so proud of her, and of her platform "Ladies Who Lift." Chelsea is showing the world what being a truly beautiful woman is all about!

WHOLE LOTTA LEAVES

We have a lot of beautiful singing coming out of the studios at 4001 Ingersoll - and a lot of leaves falling every autumn! A big thank you to the awesome confirmation class from our Plymouth Church and 40th Street neighbors for their help raking and doing otherchores



around the building - we've never looked so good!

SUPER TUTOR KYLE JOHNSON

Principal employee Kyle Johnson has taken the reins from former tutor Phil



Sandager as the go-to math tutor at City Voices - from 8th grade math, to Pre-Calculus, to AP Statistics, he's the guy to help! We are so grateful for his weekly tutoring sessions!

OPEN HOUSE FESTIVITIES



The City Voices 2017-18 year kicked off with an Open House, complete with Teaching Artist performances, including Songwriting Instructor Courtney Krause and departing Programming Coordinator Napoleon Douglas. We had a great group of visitors, enjoyed some awesome Woody's BBQ, and enjoyed beautiful music!

BRAVO!

ALL-STATE HONORS FOR CV STUDENT

Lorena Escobar (12, Lincoln) was selected for the prestigious 600 member Iowa All-State Chorus in October, one of only 6 Des Moines Public School students selected. This is the 4th consecutive year that a City Voices student has earned this incredible honor! Lorena, an aspiring singer/songwriter, is featured in our student interview later in this newsletter, and was also a lead player in the Des Moines Playhouse's "A Chorus Line." We are very proud of her!

FALL MUSICALS FEATURE STUDENTS

The fall semester featured musical productions at several of the Des Moines High Schools. City Voices students were present and accounted for, as usual, including lead roles for Damaris Nelson (10) and Antonesia Williams (11) in East High's production of "High School Musical," and a role for Veronica Eclatt (10) in Lincoln High School's production of "Little Shop of Horrors." We love to see students using their talents in their home school programs!

EAST POLK ROTARY CLUB WELCOMES CV

Damaris Nelson (10, East) provided music for the morning meeting of the East Polk Rotary Club at Prairie Meadows in December 2017. Damaris sang "Somedays" and "American Lullaby" for a very appreciative audience of east-side business owners. In addition, she was treated to the yummy buffet, and Mary Anne Sims shared some information about City Voices. Good job, Damaris!

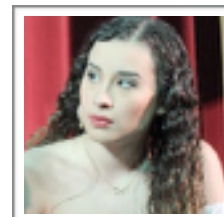


CITY VOICES AT THE VA

A talented group of City Voices students entertained an enthusiastic audience in the foyer of the VA Hospital. Esther Ubadigbo (Roosevelt, 10), a volunteer at the hospital, helped arrange a brief show featuring students from Roosevelt (Esther, Rose Rocha, LB Rivera, Heaven Booker) and East (Damaris Nelson), as well as Teaching Artist Napoleon Douglas.

A CHORUS LINE OF CITY VOICES

Demarius Fisher (Roosevelt, Class of 2017) and Lorena Eclatt (12, Lincoln) were both cast in lead roles in the Des Moines Playhouse's production of "A Chorus Line." As Richie, Demarius was featured in dance as well as song, playing an ex-high school athlete who is trying to make his way on Broadway. Lorena, as Diana, sang the much-loved song "Nothing," as well as the ballad that closes the show, "What I Did For Love." We are so proud!



city voices in the city

The Nutcracker



Antonesia Williams (East, 11) Heaven Booker (Roosevelt, 12) LB Rivera (Roosevelt, 12)



City Voices students were thrilled to be asked to sing holiday songs in the lobby of the Des Moines Civic Center before the Iowa Dance Theater's performance of holiday classic "The Nutcracker" Students received free tickets to the performance, as well as an awesome backstage tour following the show! A big thank you to Steven Nelson, Iowa Dance Theater Board Vice-President, for asking us!

Students participating were: LB Rivera, Heaven Booker, Ben Harper, Aaliyah Fenceroy, Esther Ubadigbo, Tatum Clayburn (Roosevelt), Antonesia Williams, Damaris Nelson (East), and Kendall Bruce (Graduate, Roosevelt 2016.)

Breakfast With Santa



The brand new venue The Tea Room was the site as City Voices students sang holiday music at the beloved "Breakfast With Santa." Students performed for 2 sold-out audiences of eager young people, Mrs. Claus, and the big guy himself! We had a blast!

A big thank-you to Blackbird Hospitality for inviting us and for a wonderful donation!

Students participating were: LB Rivera, Heaven Booker, Ben Harper, Aaliyah Fenceroy, Melissa Hoffman, Esther Ubadigbo, Tatum Clayburn (Roosevelt), Antonesia Williams, Damaris Nelson (East), Kaitlyn Carr (Lincoln), Max Dressic (North), Jason Koromo, Justin Koromo (Hoover), and Taryn Cook (Brody.)

World Food Prize

City Voice was honored to be asked to provide music for the annual World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), was recognized. After the ceremony, students were honored to meet the featured performer, Nigerian pop star Omawumi. This is the 3rd consecutive year City Voices has performed at this ceremony.



Lorena Eclatt (Lincoln, 12), Esther Ubadigbo (Roosevelt, 10), and Omawumi.

Participating were: Esther Ubadigbo, LB Rivera, Heaven Booker, Tatum Clayburn (Roosevelt), Jason Koromo, Justin Koromo (Hoover), Veronica Eclatt, Lorena Eclatt, Adrian Montano (Lincoln), Kendall Bruce (Graduate, Roosevelt) and Teaching Artist Chris Powell.

Small Business Saturday

City Voices carolers strolled The Avenues on Small Business Saturday, as part of the community-wide celebration. A big thank you to Chris Irvine of The Mansion for asking us to participate, and to Teaching Artist Chris Powell for leading us!



THE BUSINESS OF BUSY-NESS

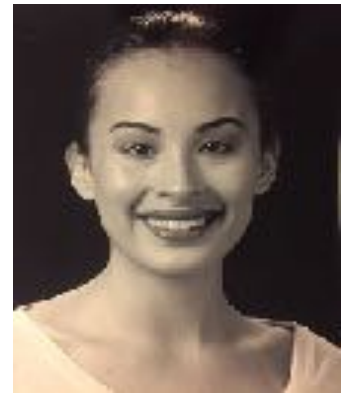
City Voices senior Lorena Eclatt takes on the business of music.

“MRS. SIMS!! I’M SO SORRY TO BOTHER YOU BUT...” read the text message from Lorena Eclatt, City Voices and Lincoln senior. What followed was an image of a message of acceptance to the University of Colorado Denver, with a hefty scholarship. And since UCDenver has been called by Billboard magazine “one of the top music business programs in the country,” for this talented, aspiring young musician, it might be exactly where she wanted to be.

Lorena has made it her business to succeed musically wherever she chooses to be. When the Des Moines Playhouse announced plans to do “A Chorus Line” in the fall of 2017, we at City Voices knew exactly who should play the striving, outspoken character Diana. Fortunately, the Playhouse knew too, and Lorena earned rave reviews, shining in the songs “Nothing,” which describes her less-than-positive experience in acting class, and “What I Did For Love,” which puts into song the love actors have for the stage. Since she had been nominated for the Iowa High School Music Theater Award’s prestigious “Triple Threat” award for her performance in Des Moines Lincoln’s production of “High School Musical,” her success was not a surprise: the only surprise was that she was able to fit long rehearsals and multiple performances into her busy weeks, which were already filled with school choir school rehearsals, a full academic schedule, private lessons at City Voices and a part-time job helping her mother at the family print shop.

Lorena, however, handled the busy-ness with her typical aplomb, continuing to sing in Lincoln’s Show, Jazz, and Chamber Choirs, as well as auditioning for and being selected for the highly selective Iowa All-State Chorus, one of only 6 students in the Des Moines Public Schools chosen. She also even found time to participate in City Voices’s performance at The World Food Prize Laureate Ceremony. Clearly, the translation of “busy-ness” to the “business” of music is no problem!

Introduced to City Voices by her teacher, Christian White, Lorena and her sister Veronica signed up, even though they had no experience with private lessons, because “My sister and I love singing, so we figured practicing one on one with a teacher on our own time was beneficial for us as musicians.” Assigned to Teaching Artist Sara Routh, Lorena has thrived, developing her voice to its fullest potential, and expanding her repertoire to include foreign-language solos. She says that her favorite song has been “Se tu m’ami,” and that she really liked working on “changing my tone.” And although she is not the biggest fan of “sight singing when the songs are difficult,” she also has gained some “different perspectives of learning vocal music” through her study. She credits City Voices for giving her “so many techniques that have helped in all of my activities.” Those activities, in addition to the choirs and honors mentioned earlier, have included multiple musicals at Lincoln, and participation in the Iowa State Solo Contest, where she earned highly superior ratings.



All these successes are impressive, but Lorena has her sights on one more goal - if you have been to any of our City Voices recitals, you may have heard some of her original songs. Usually accompanying herself on the piano, Lorena says she loves to write “songs about my experiences and emotions.” And she has big plans: ultimately, she wants to be a singer/songwriter, and is in the process of applying to various colleges where she hopes to hone her craft. Before college, however, Lorena has set herself one more challenge: she is entering the National Endowment for the Arts’ Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge, a nationwide competition for high school students with a “passion for writing songs that could be part of a musical theater production.” One of her works, “Who Is She,” performed at the December 2017 recital, seemed perfect for this contest. Tweaking just a few elements, she submitted her entry in early January. [Six finalists will be announced in February, and winners will be earn scholarships, as well as mentorship opportunities with professional songwriters and musicians and the opportunity to have an original song performed by those musicians.] Just one more order of business for Lorena - and we have no doubt she’s well on her way!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

City Voices has served over 125 students from 9 different area secondary schools since our beginning in 2013. One of our main goals is to help them gain the skills to be lifelong musicians, either in their communities, or even in college programs. But even if they don't study music, we know that the habits acquired in studying music at a high level inspire them to achieve highly at whatever they do! And we have some pretty amazing alumni doing some pretty amazing things:

- Destiny Foster (North, '14) is a senior at the University of Iowa. She is majoring in communications and will graduate in the spring of 2018. She spent last summer in an internship in Barcelona, Spain, and was selected as a semi-finalist in the Study Abroad Photo Contest.
- Daniela Ortiz (North, '16) is a sophomore majoring in Music Therapy at the University of Kansas. She was also recently voted president of the campus Gospel Choir, Inspirational Gospel Voices.
- Terry Nguyen (Hoover, '17) is a freshman at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, with a double major in math and computer science. He also sings in the Rensselaer Concert Choir.
- Mayte Gomez-Cruz (North, '16) is a sophomore at the University of Iowa majoring in Music Therapy. She also was cast in the spring production of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance," one of the first events taking place on the new Hancher Auditorium stage.
- Mercedes Castillo (North, '17) is a freshman vocal performance major at Simpson College in Indianola, IA. She was also a member of the cast of Handel's opera "Acis And Galatea."



Heaven Booker
(Roosevelt, 12)
tapes an
audition.



WHERE WILL THEY BE?

Applying to college is never an easy process - with applications, FAFSA forms, personal essays and more, most high school seniors may think it's like a full-time job! For those students entering college music programs, there are even more hurdles; most have to audition for schools of music, even if they are accepted into the larger school, and some may even have to submit "pre-audition tapes" in order to even sign up for an audition. Fortunately, we have Teaching Artist Chris Powell, who is not only an awesome teacher, but also has a wealth of experience with sound/taping issues. Thanks to him, we have already taped and sent 3 recordings for potential Music Theater programs, as well as a contest entry. And there are even more to come! We hope that we can support our students as they dream big!

In Appreciation

For our 2017-18 supporters, both individual, organizational and corporate. We couldn't do what we do without them - and we are so very grateful!

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mary Anne Sims, B.M.(Ulowa), M.A. (Ohio State) Music Education

TEACHING ARTISTS: Chris Powell, B.A., Vocal Performance (UNI)

Sara Routh, B. MusEd, Vocal Performance (Simpson)

Amanda Lowe, B. S., Music Therapy (Augsburg, MN)

Dang Felton (guitar), Dartanyan Brown (guitar)

We are proud members of the Berklee City Music Network. The City Music Network is a consortium of 46 community organizations across the United States and Canada committed to delivering high-quality music instruction to youth from underserved communities. Like the other members, City Voices provides out-of-schooltime programs that receive access to the Berklee PULSE Music Method®, as well as other resources and support from Berklee College of Music. You can read more about the network at: <https://www.berklee.edu/city-music-network>.



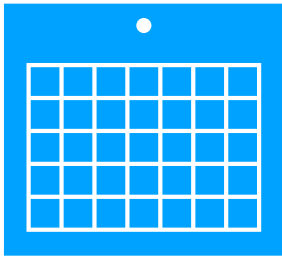
HOW YOU CAN HELP:

• 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](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



COMING EVENTS:

Monday, January 8, 2018:	2nd Semester Programming begins
Every Monday, 4:15-5:00 p.m.:	College Prep Music Theory, City Voices building
Every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.:	Math Tutoring, City Voices conference room
Monday, April 30, 2018:	Spring Recital, Luther Memorial Church
TBA:	Senior Recital, City Voices building

AND....Other events as they are scheduled! Check our website regularly!



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50312