

Dear the Eva Gunther Foundation,

I would like to thank you again for the wonderful opportunity that I was given to receive vocal lessons! During my lessons, I was able to expand my repertoire list by singing songs in German, French, and Italian. It was wonderful to be able to have a consistent voice teacher to go to who was supportive and knew a lot about vocal technique. I gained a lot of helpful vocal technique from these lessons: I learned the importance of vowels and how they can change sound, to lift my soft palate to keep the sound tall, and how to keep my sound forward. While I do participate in the School of the Arts' (SOTA) Vocal Department, the choir has 95 people and it is difficult for all of us to receive one-on-one advice, even when we do solo labs in the department. The vocal lessons I received were helpful because they were catered by a person-to-person basis. After all, every singer/person learns differently and has different things that they need to work on. With my vocal lessons, I was able to figure out what problems I had (vowels, breathing) and how to better tackle those issues. I found myself incorporating those techniques in the singing I did at SOTA as well, from solo singing to warming up in choir. The most rewarding part of my experience would be the Spring Recital that all of the students with private lessons put on. This was when we could showcase the techniques we have learned and the songs that we had worked tirelessly on. I performed three songs: two solos and a duet with my voice teacher. The experience was amazing because it was a culmination of all that I have done and learned, and I felt that my hard work really paid off.

Although I am not going to be a Vocal major in college, having these private lessons have instilled a newfound sense of confidence in my capabilities as an artist. In the future, I definitely plan to be involved with the vocal community in Boston (which is where I'll be for college!). I will always carry the love I have for vocal music with me, and having these lessons have reiterated that and has made me

a better vocalist and person. None of this would have been possible without your fellowship grant, and for that I am truly grateful. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Vicky Huang