

Personal Statement

A singer in the chorus who plays piano, providing accompanying music or the piano player who sings well pretty well onstage. That is how people would refer to me as. I have to say they really have an attitude toward me that is shifty like a swing blew by intermittent wind, though such judgment would not subdue their passion for inviting me to accompany their singing or my confidence as the chief singer in our chorus. I would have been extremely annoyed by their shifty judgment had I realized that being versatile is exactly what confers as an advantage for me. However, being a good piano player and vocalist at the same time was apparently a treasure for me.

When I was admitted to art-specialized class in my school, it came naturally that I chose piano as one of my subjects because by then I have learned piano for ten years. I was exposed to piano when I was 5 years old. At first, my parents just wanted to cultivate a hobby that would exalt my aesthetic taste and did not treat it seriously. However, my first piano teacher held a different attitude and conducted a strict standard. As a result, I was required to treat piano playing with more primness. Thanks to this responsible teacher, I started to practice many compositions at a very early age. I had practiced works of composers from Baroque period such as Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Scarlatti. Creations of composers of Classic period were also a part of my practice. For example, I had practiced works of Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Besides, under the encourage of my teacher, I had practiced works of symbolic composers of Romanticism including Franz Seraphicus Peter Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Frédéric François Chopin and so on. With the wide range and large quantity of my practice, I was able to improve my skills progressively.

Vocal was a relatively strange word for me though I have a vague conception that it was about singing. However, my interest in it was somehow immense. On the one hand, I wanted to continue my study of piano. On the other hand, I wanted to obtain more knowledge about vocalist. After a while of hesitation, I choose both of them as my main subjects, which turned out to be the best choice I have ever made considering the outcome.

If high school was the time I found out my potential in vocalist, college is when my vocal skills experienced continuous and obvious improvements. Under the guidance of my mentor, my vocal skills and the quality of my voice got improved stupendously especially in contralto and mezzo-soprano. I was appointed as the representative to sing for the foreign professor who paid visit to our school to promote his Master Class. All of these occasions served as opportunities for me to refine. And after my voicing method was modified with the help of my mentor, my voice became more pure and less affected, significantly improved my performance poignancy. During the process, I realized the importance of expanding my practice coverage in terms of language, musical type and cultural background. Instead of plain pursuit of power, I started to attach great importance to techniques and diversity in lingual choice and variation of musical type and musical works from different period. With that in my mind, I began to visit some experts in voice performance. By increasing the quantity of foreign musical works from different country in different language, my performance started to cover English, Italian, German and other songs. I also practiced different musical types including Baroque, Jazz Blues, Lyric Drama and otherwise.

Meanwhile, I did not lax the practice of piano playing. I started to practice modern composers' works such as works of Achille-Claude Debussy, Sergei-Sergeyevich Prokofiev, Nikolai Kapustin and so on. In addition to accompanying my chorus, I had also accompanied my schoolmates for their singing performance evaluation. Sometimes, a jam-packed schedule required me to go through the same exam with different students for more than twenty times because they considered me as a reliable partner and I did not intend to lose their trust. In 2012, I was admitted to the Master Class opened by professor Slawomir Zaranok of Universität Hannover from Germany and graduated from this class with an excellent score.

College life has been rewarding for me not only because I managed to strike a balance between vocal and piano but also I obtained comprehensive improvements in different fields. My sight-reading ability has experienced a progressive growth and my accompany ability continued to improve. I acquired the basic music writing skills and obtained considerable experience in vamp. As for vocal, I had learnt the basic conception such as tones, pitch, temperament and so on. I had general knowledge of different musical forms and intricacy of harmony. Most importantly, I formed a systematic understanding of music. From the perspective of personal competence, my work in Student Union won unanimous favorable judgment and, as a member of campus Publication Office and the radio broadcast, I was considered reliable and responsible. I had learnt the intricacy and sophistication of getting along with different people. I realized that sometimes I should be assertive to defend myself, but with genuineness and a warm heart, it was easy to make friends who had good heart. The lessons I learnt during my college life, both academically and personally, will help me a lot in the future.

Seven years ago, I decided to choose both vocal and piano as my subjects in high school and won unexpected advantage and more opportunities than other students in my college. Three years ago, I chose music as my major. The result was to my favor. Now I am highly recognized for both of my piano skills and my vocal performance. In retrospect, I find that every single move you make may have an influence on your life that you could never think of. For me, it is going to be a rite of passage of my life to study abroad. Firstly, it will be a perfect opportunity to explore to a higher level of music by receiving professional education in your program. I hope to broaden my knowledge of piano and perfect my vocal skills. Secondly, to live in a strange country by myself and blend in a totally strange environment where I have never been before is a challenging yet exciting experience. Luckily, I have accumulated experience to get along with different people and fit into different groups. No matter what difficulties I will confront, I am confident to overcome them. To experience the American culture, to improve my English and to pursue my study of music are all in my lists of the most thing I want. The excitement overshadows all the panic. I am one hundred percent sure that I am ready to study in your school.