



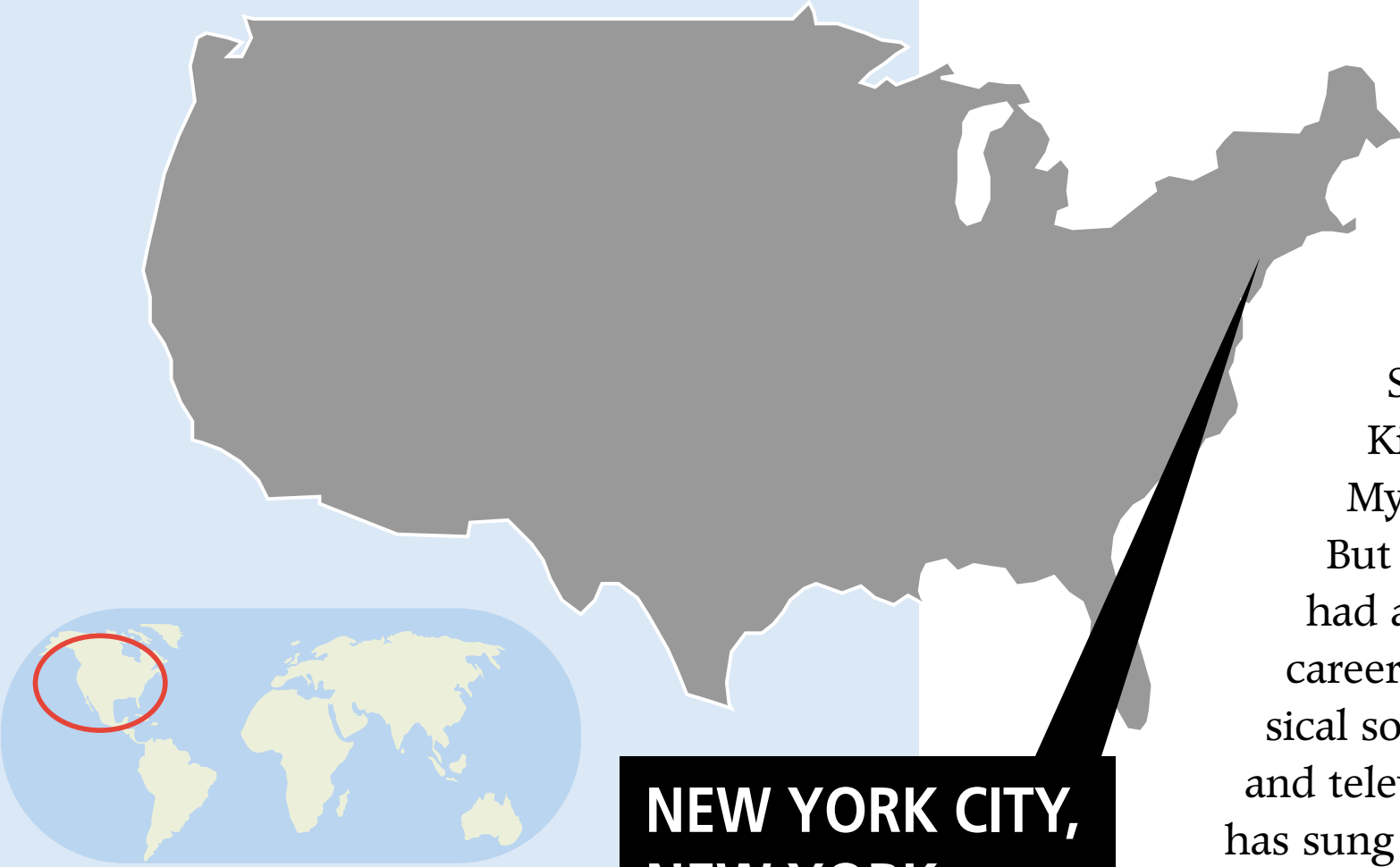
Casey Moino Dunn
Class
Hometown, State

“Learning music by reading about it is like making love by mail.”

Isaac Stern

With this quote reverberating in my mind, I headed north to spend the later half of my final summer as a Carolina student in New York City. I planned to use this opportunity to continue my journey towards every musician’s dream – performing in Carnegie Hall, more specifically on its main stage, Isaac Stern Auditorium.

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NEW YORK CITY,
NEW YORK

Nixon is perhaps most well known as the singing voice behind the stars of West Side Story, The King and I and My Fair Lady. But she has also had an illustrious career in opera, classical song, Broadway and television. Mark has sung over 200 leading role performances at the Metropolitan Opera from 1991-2003 and was a



Of course, for singers performing always takes on a multimedia role. Since our bodies are our instruments, we are often more akin to actors than instrumentals and must possess a unique combination of skills. Nowhere is this better represented than in the Broadway musical. However, 20 blocks north of 42nd Street and just a few away from Carnegie Hall lies another staple of the American musical scene, the Metropolitan Opera—perhaps the ultimate goal.

With all of my puzzle pieces on the table I designed a program that would combine my interests and backgrounds and hopefully bring me back to Chapel Hill a more refined performer. I have known for some time that my favorite city is not only an excellent training ground for any artist, but hopefully the final and ultimate destination. I knew this summer would also give me a great preview of what it will be like to live there permanently. Through the generous support of the Burch Program, I was certainly able to further my strengths while also pushing my artistic limits in what is so often hailed as the Capital of the World.

At the heart of my program were individual lessons with some of the city’s finest performers and teachers, soprano Marni Nixon and baritone Mark Oswald. Marni



principal lyric baritone at most opera houses across the world before devoting the majority of his time to teaching. Both built on my fortes while presenting new approaches to persistent challenges in new and old repertoire.

Although my interest in opera has blossomed since coming to Carolina, I remain very passionate about musical theatre. One simply has to look to Ezio Pinza’s leading role in South Pacific or the career of famed baritone Robert Merrill to see the connection. I am acutely aware of keeping doors open explored this during my fellowship, especially through movement training. I was able to take advantage of classes at the Broadway Dance Center, one of the city’s most well known studios for performing artists of all backgrounds.

Similarly, I studied with one of NYC’s most respected Alexander Technique teachers, Mark Josefsberg, at The American

Center for the Alexander Technique. A 100-year-old physical “re-education” of the body, the technique has established itself as a key tool for performers in all fields. A multifaceted approach focusing on reducing harmful tension in one’s body, the Alexander Technique is most helpful in increasing a performer’s range of motion and coordination through relaxation.

All of this training came in handy during some big performances at the end of the summer. I was able to apply and hone my skills at master classes with luminaries such as opera megastar Lucine Amara and in staged performances of scenes from, Rossini’s Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Tchaikovsky’s Eugene Onegin and



Guys and Dolls with professionals and other young artists studying in the city. Additionally, I performed in an English version of Mozart’s comic masterpiece Così fan tutte with the Singers’ Theatre of NY under the direction of noted stage director Patricia Heuermann. All of these opportunities certainly gave me more than just a taste of the Big Apple.

Of course, so many aspects of living in New York were equally rewarding. From meeting with alumni involved in the performing arts to navigating public transportation at all hours of the day, the city became my home.

There were some chance meetings at screenings, shows and concerts with a slew of personalities in the performing arts, from directors to actors, musicians, producers and designers - connections that have already continued to blossom. I look forward to returning and continuing what

I was fortunate to start in NYC thanks to a Burch Fellowship.

