As part of our Opera Workshop course, I will be bringing Opera Outreach to local elementary schools and the Flint Public Library. The opera outreach will focus on the promotion of literacy and anti-bullying for K-5 students, while providing exploration and development of the fine arts to our local community. We will be presenting an opera outreach of "The Three Little Pigs" by John Davies. The opera is set to this children’s story, while we hear the music of Mozart, Donizetti, and Rossini. This is a unique opportunity that will bring our opera workshop and NAfME students together into our local community to provide opera education for K-5 students.

The course learning objectives that will be achieved in this outreach project are two fold. The first major objective is geared toward professional performance experience for the singers. This is an opportunity for them to develop their stage, acting, and presentation skills. The opera outreach will help them prepare for young artist auditions for professional opera companies, where they will be doing similar outreach projects. In addition, they will be able to further their musical skills, scene preparations, and advance their vocal technique. The second objective is the learning engagement for the elementary students, who will work with our NAfME Music Education students and perform with the singers on stage. This will be a service project for the NAfME students for the winter semester.

I am currently looking for funding with UROP to have 8 students to assist in the preparation of teaching materials, classroom instruction, and music preparation for the elementary students at each school. These NAfME students will be creating their students will work together with our music education professor, Dr. Salvador, and myself to create this packet that will be distributed to all of the music instructors at the various schools. We will use 2 hours per week for development of the teaching materials, which will create successful learning outcomes to help students from K-5 prepare for the performance. We will focus on the elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, genre, style, etc.), elements of the story (characters, costumes, set, etc.), and the components of opera (voice types, conducting, costumes, set, musical ideas, foreign languages, composers, etc.). I am also collaborating on creating a digital, interactive learning experience for the students with our music technology professor.

After the completion of the packet, these NAfME students will work in-classroom for two hours each one week prior to our performance dates with the students on the educational materials. The teachers will be able to utilize the materials in their course curriculum. In addition, the 5th graders will perform a short chorus with our singers at our performance as part of the opera. The NAfME students will work with these students to prepare the music and a short dance for the opera. In working with the teachers and students, the NAfME students will be able to help provide in classroom music and story telling preparations for our performances. We will coordinate
times with the music instructors to have our students on campus. I will be
sending them out in pairs to be able to work together to prepare the
elementary students with a review of the story, elements of music, music and
dance performance components with the 5th graders, and discuss the
elements of opera.

We will have reflection assignments that occur throughout the
semester, which will help the students develop an awareness of how they are
growing as performers and teachers in this process. We will have a reflection
for the performers after their dress rehearsal performance, first
performance, and last performance. The reflections will focus on their
performance development, community performance and engagement at the
events, and their video analysis project of their stage/presentation skills. We
will also have the NAfME students write a reflection on their packet
development process, working with the 5th graders on the music/stage skills,
and the in-classroom teaching experience with the various levels of students.
Both groups will also reflect on this experience, which will help them become
better artist-teacher-scholars. This will help them consider the overall
experience, and how they will be able to utilize community outreach
development in the future.

We would like our students to be able to bring music into our
community. I believe that each student has a unique voice, and we want to
encourage music as a core foundation for personal expression. It is important
for our young performers and teachers to find opportunities to engage with
the community, so that they are able to understand the value of the arts in an
education program. In addition, this project will provide professional level
performance and in-class teaching experience for our students. It is a
valuable opportunity for them to see the level of impact that they can make
in their community, and it will encourage them to create familiar community
relationships in their own careers.

We want to bring opera and music education into our local
elementary schools and community education programs. Opera is an art form
that is often seen as a very distant and difficult to understand medium. We
want to encourage students to experience opera in a story telling
environment that focuses on the elements of music. The students will learn
about the story, elements of opera and music (rhythm, melody, orchestra,
voice types, costumes, etc.), and experience a live opera performance. We
hope that this will get them excited about making music together, so that
they will be able to express themselves in an artistic medium for all ages. In
addition, it will expose them to classical music in a fun and interactive
learning environment. We would like this to become an annual event for the
students, so that we are able to bring opera into our community throughout
the year.

We will document the opera outreach with a digital picture and video
archive, selections of student work, and we will post on the UM-Flint Opera
Blog. I will also ask that the on-site teachers provide written feedback on
their experience with us. It will allow students and teachers to share their feedback and comments with our performers and teachers.

1. Review Schedule of Opera Outreach for Winter 2015
   a. Schedule of Events
      i. February 20, 2015 Open Dress-Rehearsal in Performance Class
      ii. February 27, 2015 1:00pm Chatfield School
      iii. March 13, 2015 1:00pm Rankin Elementary
      iv. March 20, 2015 Start TBD Durant Tuuri-Mott Elementary
      v. March 27, 2015 Beecher Schools (Tucker/Dailey)
      vi. April 17, 2015 Cook/Mason Elementary
      vii. Flint Public Library May 1, 2015 Morning Performance

2. Application in process for class funding
   a. UROP $2,688.00 (Student Employment NAfME) Application Pending
   b. NAfME Student Workers Total Budget $2,688.00
      i. Students will work 2 hours per week January 5, 2015-April 20, 2015
      ii. 14 Weeks: 2 hours per week for 8 students $12.00 per hour
         2. Delivery of all teaching materials to schools on Monday, Feb. 16, 2015
         3. February 16, 2015-February 27, 2015 Classroom Demo Preparations