

**Testimonials from three Yale students who recently received undergraduate private music lesson subsidies through the Department of Music:**

**Kimberly DeQuattro** (Class of 2003)

*"As a freshman eager to pursue music at Yale, it would have been difficult to take advantage of private lessons in both violin and voice because of their cost. Being granted a private music lesson scholarship kept those doors open for me and wound up really making an impact. As it turns out I won two arts awards as a Junior and Senior of Yale College, as well as a scholarship to attend the New England Conservatory, where I graduated with honors with my Master of Music degree. Hooray for supporting such basic and valuable endeavors as music lessons!"*

Ms. DeQuattro was awarded the Louis Sudler Prize for Excellence in the Arts in 2003. This prize is conferred each year upon a member of the senior class for distinguished work in the arts. Ms. DeQuattro was recognized for her accomplishments in vocal performance.

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**Christopher Herbert** (Class of 2002)

*"Private voice lessons at Yale were what made me become a classical singer in the first place. During my sophomore year my teacher told me that opera is something that I could do if I really wanted. More than anything else, the private instruction gave me the framework in which to operate for a career in music."*

Mr. Herbert majored in both Music and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Yale. During 2008, Mr. Herbert performed the role of Pluto in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* at Opera Vivente, the role of William Williamson in Bolcom's *A Wedding* at Music Academy of the West, the baritone solos in *Carmina Burana* with the Handel Society of Dartmouth College, and performed with the charitable organization Sing For Hope at the New York Times Center in New York City. His 2007 performances included a Lincoln Center debut singing Mozart songs with the Christopher Caines Dance Company. In 2006, Mr. Herbert was a Young Concert Artists International semifinalist and a Central City Opera Young Artist.

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**James P. Johnson** (Class of 2003)

*"I graduated from Yale College in 2003 with a B.A. in Theater Studies. While my academic major at Yale was theater, I have always been a singer and knew when I was admitted to Yale that I wanted to be a part of the rich musical tradition at Yale College. Before college, I had taken private voice lessons for about a year. As a freshman, I knew that I wanted to continue private vocal training, but as a student on financial aid working twenty hours per week in a work-study job, I knew that the added expense would be unfeasible.*

*At the end of my freshman year I discovered the Music Department had a fund that made it possible for undergraduate students to take voice lessons at the Yale School of Music at no cost. In my sophomore year, I began studying each week with a graduate-level voice student at the School of Music.*

*I can say with certainty that the voice lessons provided by the Department's Fund proved to be a formative part of my Yale experience and have contributed to my success since graduation. Studying with professional-caliber musicians elevated my technical and musical ability and even helped me to land the title role in the 2002 Dramat mainstage musical *Candide*.*

*Since graduation, I have continued to pursue a career in the arts. In 2006, I made my NYC "operatic debut" at Alice Tully Hall in the American premiere of a Japanese opera called *Kurofune*. I have also performed with the Opera Company of Brooklyn and with Operamici. I am currently pursuing performance opportunities in opera and musical theater.*

*I am deeply grateful for the financial assistance that allowed me to pursue my passion for music and refine my craft while at Yale. I hope that the continued generosity of donors and alumni will help provide seminal training and performance experience for Yale's next generation of aspiring musicians."*