

Felicity Lott bursary report:

The Dame Felicity Lott bursary has been invaluable for me this year in continuing my professional development as a singer. The key area that it has helped with is allowing me to maintain regular singing lessons. This year these have brought to fruition work that I had been doing for the previous three years whilst studying at Royal Holloway and have led to a lot of good reviews from people who have heard me. The time spent in my singing lessons has also been supported by various consultations with teachers at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. This is in preparation for my application for post graduate courses in vocal performance. I have also been fortunate enough to be able to use the bursary in order to work with Alec Crowe who is a vocal coach. These sessions have given me new insight into performance skills as well as interpreting music.

In these lessons I have been constantly preparing for different performances and auditions throughout the year. Particular highlights have been performing with Royal Holloway groups again such as being a soloist for The Choir of a Royal Holloway's performance of Mozart Requiem at St-Martin-in-the-Fields and more recently as a soloist with the Royal Holloway Symphony Orchestra on their recent tour to Belgium. On top of this I have been regularly performing as a soloist with local amateur groups in Kent such as performances of Handel's Messiah and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical songs. I am sure that it is only due to the tuition that I received via the bursary that I have been able to commit to these performances and sing in a way that I am happy with. I am also certain that having the luxury of regular singing lessons is one of the main reasons for my many successes in the year with auditions for scholarships and jobs starting in September 2019. These include being offered a place as a Voces8 Scholar and as a choral scholar at St-Martin-in-the-Fields. I am also to take up the position of principal bass at Rochester Cathedral.

I am currently continuing to work towards a diploma. This has been delayed until next academic year, as I felt it was advantageous to further develop my vocal technique first. I am also looking forward to participating in a National Opera Studios Short course in the summer which I could not have done without the bursary. Finally the bursary has allowed me to not have to worry about the cost of travelling into London regularly for all of this. I believe that the bursary has given me the freedom to really make the most of my first year after graduating from Royal Holloway.