

🎵 A New High 🎵 Levosky Follows Dream As Opera Singer

Kailey Cota

She has always loved to perform. As a child, everyone knew that Kylie Levosky ('19) had a passion for singing, acting, and dancing. Through the Winthrop Academy of Music, Levosky has found interest in a new genre; classical music.

"I wanted to be a better singer, so I took voice lessons. There I learned to sing classical music, which is what I love the most," said Levosky.

During a voice lesson, Levosky and her voice teacher start by warming up with vocal exercises. When Levosky's voice is prepared to sing, they work on existing or new songs. Her voice teacher, Dr. Kristen Wunderlich who is an Associate Professor of Music at Winthrop, is enthusiastic about having such a talented, young student.

"What I have loved about teaching her is that she is so open to trying new things with her voice and I speak to her very much as if she was one of my college students," said Dr. Wunderlich.

Throughout their voice lessons, the two discovered that Levosky had more of a classical sound, and decided to work on developing her voice as well as working on technique such as musical theater belt.

"Being comfortable with both Musical Theater and Classical repertoire will open up more opportunities for her," Dr. Wunderlich said.

Already, Levosky has participated in a number of musical theater and classical music performances and auditions, as well as an opera intensive program.



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Practicing for her vocal lessons, Kylie Levosky ('19) warms up her voice.

"Kylie has auditioned with National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) for the past few years," said Dr. Wunderlich. "Last year she was one of a select few in her category of high school women to make a youtube screening video for the National Student Auditions in Chicago. This year she advanced to the Regional auditions in both Musical Theatre and Classical auditions."

This summer Levosky participated in a music camp with Opera Carolina. There she spent time "learning stage combat, participating in master classes with expert teachers, and having a great culminating performance opportunity," said Dr. Wunderlich.

Currently, Levosky and Dr. Wunderlich are preparing for the South Carolina Musical Theatre auditions at Converse College at the end of October. If she advances, there is a possibility of making it to the National auditions in Las Vegas, NV. this coming summer.

While Levosky has performed in front of many differently sized crowds, she prefers larger audiences.

"I'm definitely more comfortable performing in front of large crowds, because even when they're staring, you can't tell," said Levosky. "Even though some people might believe the opposite, large crowds are much less pressure."

Whether it is in front of family or large crowds, Levosky has 'been singing ever since she opened her mouth', and she realizes that she could not continue without her support system.

"My support system is my voice teacher, Dr. Kristen Wunderlich, my choir teacher, Dr. Michael Ramsey, my Grandpa, Glenn Levosky, and my parents, April and Scott Levosky," said Levosky. "Dr. Wunderlich helps me become a better singer, Dr. Ramsey is a great person to look up to, my Grandpa allows me to take voice lessons, and my parents support my ambitions."

Mrs. and Mr. Levosky are nothing but supportive of their daughter.

Mrs. Levosky remarks that Kylie has found something special. "A lot of people spend their lives figuring out what their gift is, and I am just happy that Kylie has been able to find that at a young age, and can try to master that gift," she said.

Listening to Levosky sing and being involved in her musical auditions and performances have impacted Mr. Levosky as well.

"It really makes me feel proud of all of her hard work and really aware of how much she has learned and can apply..." said Mr. Levosky. "We love to hear her sing, not just because she is our beloved daughter, but she is actually outstanding. We know she is in the right place."

Dr. Wunderlich also loves watching Levosky sing, using her 'beautiful, clear voice'.

"I love seeing the joy in her face when she sings- I hope she never loses that!" said Dr. Wunderlich.