

SOAR Project Proposal Summer 2018

Title: Australian Aboriginal Music: Exploring the Influence of Australian Politics, Biology, Environment and History on Aboriginal Music and Storytelling.

(2) Faculty Mentors, (1) Consultant : Dr. Hilde Binford, Associate Professor, Music Department with Suzanne Kompass. Consultant, Sean O'Boyle, both teaching at University of Sunshine Coast, Australia.

Student: Lauren Steinert '20

Dates of Project: May 7th - July 14th, 10 weeks (40 hours/week)

Description of Project:

Lauren's goal is to understand the importance and impact of Australian politics, biology, environment, history on the music of the aboriginal peoples of Australia. Her research will culminate in a paper and presentation. Her work will also inform the proposed 2019 May term on the same topic, led by Dr. Binford. Looking ahead to 2018-19, she hopes to include an aboriginal work on her junior recital.

Prior to her trip to Australia for field work, Lauren will be spending just over a week reviewing the current scholarship in the field and creating a bibliography. On May 15th, she will be travel to Queensland, Australia, where Suzanne Kompass and Sean O'Boyle will be her mentor and consultant. They are currently full-time professors at the University of Sunshine Coast (USC), and they have been recent artists-in-residence for Moravian College. They remain extremely supportive of Moravian students studying in Australia.

Lauren will be in Australia for a total of three weeks to submerge herself into the Australian culture. As a testament to her initiative, she already has meetings scheduled with aboriginal descendants, as well as an aboriginal guide, who is one of the only men allowed to bring outsiders into aboriginal villages. Professors Kompass and O'Boyle have arranged for access to the research facilities at USC. All of these factors will help to guide Lauren on her journey to conduct her research; there is no better way to authentically research this topic than to be in the country and culture.

In Australia, Lauren will be recording her interviews with aboriginal peoples and learning some of the music in the oral tradition. She will be focusing on the aboriginal peoples in Queensland, particularly those living at the heritage site of Fraser Island. Upon her return, she will work to transcribe some of her interviews for use in research, as well as prepare an arrangement of a piece that she can use for her final recital. Lauren looks forward to presenting her final project in a few venues: UCUR, Moravian College May term course, junior recital, and Student Scholars' Day.

Lauren anticipates that this will be a life-changing event, and she is very excited for the opportunity to learn from this experience.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Lauren will travel to Australia for roughly three weeks. In those three weeks, she is expected to work with Professors Kompass and O'Boyle to explore and research the impact of Australian culture, heritage, politics, biology, environment and history on aboriginal music and storytelling. In anticipation of her trip, she will finalize her site visits and interviews and conduct a thorough review of the literature. Upon her return, she will work on transcriptions, arrangements, and writing.

Dr. Binford will be Lauren's faculty for the entirety of the SOAR project. She will meet regularly with Lauren (via Skype during travels) to oversee her progress and to provide direction. While Lauren is overseas in Australia, she will be aided by Professors Suzanne Kompass and Sean O'Boyle to conduct her research.

Discipline-appropriate scholarly research:

Lauren has taken the survey course, Worlds of Music, and is familiar with basic ethnomusicology research methods. Lauren will conduct field research, where she will be recording interviews and music on Fraser Island, the traditional home of the Butchulla peoples. She understands that she will need to request permissions before recording any interview, and she will be diligent about keeping those records. In addition, Dr. Binford and Lauren will check with the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB) committee to make sure nothing else is required before her departure.

Lauren is particularly excited about the possibility of creating an arrangement of a traditional song for her recital. Sean O'Boyle (composer) and Suzanne Kompass (vocalist) will be particularly helpful in this regard. Sean has arranged and written many pieces featuring aboriginal instruments and melodies, and Suzanne will ensure that any adaptation will work for Lauren's voice. Lauren's recital program will include the background information explaining the piece and project.

Contributions to the discipline and opportunities the student will have to share on her work with other students, faculty, and the community:

As previously noted, Lauren hopes to write a research paper and prepare a presentation which will include examples of the aboriginal music. She would also like to create an arrangement of a piece that she can include as part of her senior vocal recital. She looks forward to presenting her work with the other SOAR students in summer 2018. In fall 2018, she will submit a proposal for the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), with the hopes of presenting her findings in spring 2019. In spring 2019, she will include some of her work in her junior recital, and in late spring, she will make a presentation to the students in the proposed 2019 spring/May term study abroad trip to Australia, led by Dr. Binford.

SOAR Student Statement of Purpose Summer 2018

Title: Australian Aboriginal Music: Exploring the Influence of Australian Politics, Biology, Environment and History on Aboriginal Music and Storytelling

Student: Lauren Steinert, BMus Vocal Performance, graduation May 2020

(2) Faculty Mentors, (1) Consultant: Dr. Hilde Binford, Associate Professor, Music Department with Suzanne Kompass and Sean O'Boyle, both teaching at University of Sunshine Coast, Australia.

Dates of Project: May 7th - July 13th, 10 weeks (40 hours/week)

On-campus housing is requested from June 4th – July 13th. I anticipate being at campus from May 7th – 11th in anticipation of graduation, for which I will be singing in the Moravian Chorus. I have arranged for housing in Australia from May 15th through June 4th.

Discussion/Rationale and Outcomes for this Project:

My goal with this project is to research Australian Aboriginal Music, using resources at Moravian College and the University of the Sunshine Coast. My hope is to not only present my work at the college, but also at the national level, and to that end, I look forward to applying to present at the NCUR conference.

The impacts of Australian heritage and culture on the Australian aboriginal peoples are not widely known here in the States. This project, if accepted, will be able to shed light on the progression of a culture, and explore what the influence of Australian politics, biology, environment and history have had on Aboriginals, their music and storytelling.

I believe that this project is not just beneficial for myself, but complements the work of my mentors, Dr. Binford, Suzanne Kompass, Sean O'Boyle AM. There is only one way of truly being able to showcase authentic work, and that is to go to the country of origin and work with native Australians and dive into the culture myself. If my proposal is accepted, I have already set up meetings with aboriginal descendants, an Aboriginal Village Guide, and to study with Professors Kompass and O'Boyle on the music of aboriginals. It is very difficult for anyone to go to an aboriginal village alone; so I have arranged to have meetings with a man who is one of the only people, and most respected, that goes into those villages and talks to the aboriginal tribes.

Dr. Binford teaches Worlds of Music and has presented and published in ethnomusicology. She is currently preparing a 2019 May term on Australian Aboriginal Art, Music and Storytelling. Suzanne Kompass works with the traditional music styles and techniques of the *Torres Strait Islanders*, which are a group of people of aboriginal descent. Sean O'Boyle AM (Member of the Order of Australia) is a master teacher in the art of indigenous Australian instruments. Under their guidance in Australia and the

United States, I will be able to explore the aboriginal culture to help support my thesis and title for this project: "Australian Aboriginal Music: exploring the influence of Australian politics, biology, environment and history on aboriginal music and storytelling."

In addition to my outcomes, I would love to research and present about this project! I am so passionate about how undergraduate students have the opportunity to not only inform our general college and community, but to also share our outcomes and research at the national level! It is exciting for me to be given to opportunity to potentially open the eyes of people who are used to Western music and are not as familiar with aboriginal music and culture. Having the chance to go to Australia and conduct this level of research with the resources and connections that I have already set in place, and as they say -- to have all your ducks in a row -- is nearly impossible for anyone to have. I believe that if I was granted this once in a lifetime opportunity, it would not only help me and my knowledge and passion, but my mentors and their respective backgrounds and studies. I am extremely passionate and driven with this topic, and I look forward to representing Moravian College as part of the summer 2018 SOAR program.

Expense Proposal

Title: Australian Aboriginal Music: Exploring the Influence of Australian Politics, Biology, Environment and History on Aboriginal Music and Storytelling

(2) Faculty Mentors, (1) Consultant: Dr. Hilde Binford, Associate Professor, Music Department with Suzanne Kompass and consultant Sean O'Boyle, both teaching at University of Sunshine Coast, Australia.

Student: Lauren Steinert, BMus Vocal Performance, graduation May 2020

Request: \$1000 towards travel.

My proposal to study Australian aboriginal music includes a three-week trip to Queensland for field work. In ethnomusicology, there is no other possibility for me to gather the materials I need for my research. The plane fare alone is \$1500, in addition to hotel, transportation, lodging and meals. I am requesting \$1000 towards these expenses. I will be responsible for all other expenses while abroad. I can provide the receipt for my airfare should my SOAR proposal and travel expense request be approved.