

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Larissa Gaulke '24

Larissa Gaulke '24 is a junior in the School of Music, studying voice under Dr. Dawn Padula. Larissa says she feels "very lucky" to attend Puget Sound because it provides a wide array of music classes such as music theory and ethnomusicology that invite students to fully engage in learning. She expressed deep gratitude for Dawn Padula and her tutelage, which have helped her grow immensely as a vocalist during her time here. One of Larissa's favorite things about the School of Music is when the different music departments collaborate, such as instrumentalists playing alongside the Adelphian Concert Choir. She values the opportunity to perform with and listen to other musicians who she usually wouldn't have the chance to be around.

"We all work so hard, so it's always great to...collaborate to really appreciate that [effort] and dedication!" Larissa said.

Last spring, Larissa got the chance to play Mabel in Puget Sound's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. She told us that while she's had lead roles before, this was her first one in an opera. One of the things she loved most about the experience was preparing each night before their performances, including tying each other's corsets and helping each other into their bustles and dresses.

"Being Mabel on stage was so fun because I got to be a no-nonsense, elegant but outgoing protagonist," said Larissa. "I wouldn't be doing the experience justice if I didn't mention the amazing and wonderful Sam Crosby-Schmidt ['22]. Their [character] Frederic made playing Mabel an absolute blast, and I'll never forget it!"

Larissa informed us that she plans on participating in Puget Sound Opera Theater in Spring 2023. She also hopes to find theater opportunities outside Puget Sound, too, to broaden her horizons and provide her with more experience.

"There's no feeling like post-show adrenaline!" she told us.

Outside of Puget Sound, Larissa is involved as a choral scholar at Christ Episcopal Church here in Tacoma. Her whole family is very musically inclined, and she loves to make music together with them, especially her brother, a talented vocalist and pianist.

During the rest of her time at Puget Sound, Larissa told us she would love to participate in more competitions such as Concerto-Arias or NATs. She also would love to collaborate with other student musicians to make music. After she receives her degree from Puget Sound, Larissa plans to get her Masters degree, hopefully from somewhere on the East Coast!



Larissa (right) as Mabel and Sam Crosby-Schmidt '22 (left) as Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*.