

Rose Cottage
77 High Street
Bildeston
Suffolk
IP7 7ER

5th April 2018

For the attention of the President and Trustee of the Old Framlinghamian Society

Dear Mr Ellerby and Mr Essex,

My name is Rosina Bullen and I am an Old Framlinghamian music scholar, having left the school in 2011. I am currently finishing my BMus Hons degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Rather unusually for a student at the Guildhall I am a Jazz singer, one of only three in my year, and, when my four-year course ends in June I am on track to graduate with a first class honours degree. I recently applied to further my studies at the Manhattan School of Music to study under Theo Bleckmann and Kate McGarry, who are world leaders in this field. I confess I applied more in hope than expectation as they receive 3,000 applications from students worldwide and only accept two. You will understand that I am thrilled to have just been accepted as one of the two students for next year's course starting this September. This is an extraordinary opportunity to further my career at one of the most prestigious music colleges in the world. I have also been awarded a scholarship from the school to assist with the fees. However, the financial costs of attending are very high and I need to raise more money to cover the rest of the course fees and living costs in order to attend. The reason for my letter is to enquire whether this is something which the Old Framlinghamian society would consider assisting with.

I am an extremely dedicated and hardworking student and have developed hugely as a result of my time at the Guildhall. However, the opportunity to continue my studies at the world renowned Manhattan School of Music will help develop and hone my skills on the international stage. My longer-term aspiration is to be a contender for the Thelonious Monk International Institute of Jazz Competition in 2020 for which the vocalists' competition is staged every five years in the USA. This is the highest accolade one can achieve in my field and has launched the careers of the most successful artists currently practicing.

During the past four years whilst living in London I have taken every opportunity available to develop as a musician, performing in many prestigious London Jazz venues. I am also a chair vocalist for *The National Youth Jazz Orchestra*, which allows me the opportunity to perform and work with leading musicians from around the UK. Amy Winehouse was a previous holder of this position.

Living and studying in New York has been a dream of mine for many years and the experience I will gain from studying at MSM will be life changing. New York has one of the most vibrant Jazz scenes in the world with its history firmly rooted in the city. As a student at the Manhattan School of Music I would get the opportunity to study under a world-renowned faculty along with master classes from international Jazz artists. I will be able to perform with big bands and orchestras in world-class venues in New York and celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Manhattan School of Music with exciting performance opportunities around the city. This will include the opportunity to perform at *Carnegie Hall* and at *Jazz At The Lincoln Center*.

I should mention that throughout my degree I have had to manage on-going health issues as a result of having meningitis a couple of years ago. This has resulted in continuing immune system complications and, although I have improved greatly over recent years, my medical insurance in America will also be more expensive as a result of my history. I have never let my health stop me, despite medical advice to defer my studies; I have always been determined to continue my life as normally as possible. I know that this new experience and training at MSM will further enrich my life, music and career for many years to come.

The course fees are \$47,000 a year and it is a two-year full time course. The scholarship I have been awarded from the Manhattan School of Music will cover \$25,000 a year and so I still to raise around \$55,000/£39,000 per year to cover the remaining course fees, travel, medical insurance and living costs. I am told by the school that the visa I will receive to allow me to attend the course will forbid me from working outside the campus for at least the first year.

I believe that Manhattan School of Music is the place for me to further my training and I would truly value the opportunity to study there. I would greatly appreciate any consideration towards my cause for I have strived as hard as possible to get to the position I am in now and it would be the most wonderful and inspiring opportunity to have the chance to study Jazz at this world prestigious conservatoire. My time at Framlingham College was only ever possible from receiving a music scholarship allowing me to addend the school and I spent five very happy years at the school. The support and education from the College has helped me go on to study at the Guildhall, as Christina Jonhston, also an Old Framlinghamian did before me. Any assistance would certainly be life changing for me, especially as the Jazz world is less endowed with sponsorship and support opportunities than the classical world.

Yours sincerely,



Rosina Bullen