

# Where Are They Now?

St Elizabeth Catholic High School Regional Arts Program

Vocal Music & Dramatic Arts



## Sarah Forestieri

**Art discipline?** Vocal Music (Drama in Grade 12)

**Year of Graduation?** 2013

**Education** BMus, Voice Performance & Opera,  
University of Toronto Faculty of Music

MM Voice Performance & Literature, Eastman  
School of Music, Rochester NY

Arts Leadership Certificate, Eastman Institute for  
Music Leadership

**What is your current job and what does that entail?**

I work as the Children, Youth & Family Programs Manager at the Canadian Opera Company. I oversee the administration of a number of community programs both in house at the Four Seasons Centre, as well as in Community Centres across Toronto. I also manage our roster of teaching artists, and develop relationships with community partners and stakeholders. I also teach voice, as well as perform in the city.

**Please comment on any skills you feel you have developed in the RAP:**

St. Elizabeth gave me first opportunities to perform lead roles on the stage, and really gave me a glimpse into what a career as professional artist could look like. I was exposed to so many different kinds of music - including both classical, and music theatre, and encouraged to study both genres, which has served me very well in my career. To this day, some of the my most meaningful theatre training has come from my time at St. Elizabeth.

**What is your most fond memory of RAP**

My most fond memories of the RAP program were participating in school musicals. The level of professionalism by both teachers, production crew, staff and students is so incredibly high. Performing on the YCDSB stage is such an incredible experience. And many of the friends that I made in these productions have become colleagues today, as I continue to work in this industry.

**What piece of advice would you have for current students?**

Soak in every moment, take chances and try new things! This is the time to explore everything about the arts that makes you excited, because you are in a safe space, and supported by incredible teachers who want to you become the best artist you can be. Be a good colleague and support your friends - the world is extremely small and you never know who you you'll be on stage with 10 years from now. I am constantly amazed by how connected I still am to the people I met at St. Elizabeth as both colleagues and friends - from all different RAP disciplines. It's a very magical place full of incredible people.

**Why did you choose to attend St. Elizabeth?** It was always my dream to go to an arts high school and live the "High School Musical" experience - St. Elizabeth went above and beyond my expectations.

**What else have you been up to?** Recently had the opportunity to represent the Canadian Opera Company at the OPERA America Conference in San Francisco , This month I will be a featured speaker/emerging artist at the [Opera.ca Summit in Vancouver](#) (Sept. 19-22), Had the opportunity to perform German Lieder (Art Song) at the Franz Schubert Institute in Baden, Austria, I performed a role in an opera called *La Calisto* in Sulmona, Italy, Made my professional debut with Toronto Operetta Theater performing the role of Rosaura in the Spanish operetta *Los Gavilanes*, Currently working at my dream company, The Canadian Opera Company!