



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE AGENCY

College Admissions Assistance For Young Artists

Shir Rozzen, Founder

My whole life I dreamt of performing as a singer, and I dreamt of the day when people would read my poems and sing my songs. In order to pursue my dreams, my first stop was at the age of 14 at the "Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts" in Israel, where the next two years were inspiring. At the age of 16, I spread my wings and made my way to New York City. I began knocking on closed doors in hopes of joining the "Juilliard School".

However, it seemed to be during the school year and outside of the protocol. I was then asked to return and audition the following year, but, I wasn't going to give up: I requested the Director of Music to listen to me sing one song, and she kindly invited me to come over to her house in two weeks time. Though it was burning inside me to sing, and two weeks seemed too far away. "Until the meeting with her", I thought, "I shall go knock on a different door." That's when I got accepted into the Mannas Pre College Program- the New School, where they agreed to listen to me singing right away as they probably realized this girl wasn't going to leave anytime soon... I believe that real passion can make us fight - Fight the protocol, fight our fears, even fight the longing that weren't late to come...

Two weeks later I went to sing for the Director of Music at the Juilliard Pre College, she then told me that we would break the rules and invited me to join the program. It was there and then when I heard about the "Curtis Institute of Music" (Philadelphia) for the first time. The rumor has it that the place is almost a myth because it is among the most selective institutions of higher education in the world with an admission rate between 4 and 5 percent. I knew that I had to face that challenge so I will bring myself to life; It became my purpose, I wanted to be the best musician I could ever be and I made that deal with myself at 16 years old.

During my studies at Juilliard, I filled lots of gaps that I had - After all, I wasn't coming from a family of musicians and around me all of a sudden were little geniuses who started doing music at the age of 6 if not earlier. Knowing I had a lot to catch up on, made it even more fun for me. I practiced, practiced, practiced... So I truly found my voice then, and my heart felt ready.

At the end of that year I got accepted into the Curtis Institute of Music. My acceptance letter arrived in the mail on April 1st so then I firstly thought it was an April's Fools' Day joke. Still having a wee bit of hard time believing my eyes, sooner than later the fantasy became my reality and there I was studying on a full scholarship for the following 8 years at Curtis - an Institution that is truly a dream.

Post graduation and upon receiving my degrees, I moved to live & sing in Australia for a stage, and these days I work as an opera singer, a writer and a composer. While many of my dreams are still in the drawer and until they all come true, I decided to devote my time helping fulfill the dreams of those whom I used to be in their shoes once not long ago. I understand what it means to move to a new country and I feel as if it is both my mission and my duty to support the Young Artists who are intending to move & study in the States. Therefore, I established the the American College Agency for the Young Artist - A professional platform for Young Artists who desire to study in a high education institution in the United States. Although this time around and unlike my own experience, I am committing to these Young Artists not having to knock on closed doors: They are not going to feel alone. The key to open all doors will be given to them in the land of opportunity by the American Agency's team which will provide the Young Artists with a close escort, and go on an exciting and professional journey with them during the process of getting accepted into one of the Top Colleges for the Performing Arts in the USA.

