



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Tracing the footsteps of the great composers      **Name:** Adriana Janse van Rensburg

**Other Team Members:**

**Program:** Atlanta Program

**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001

**Location Visited:** Central Europe

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 01

**Project Summary:** This summer I had the amazing opportunity to trace the footsteps of Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Wagner, and Liszt among others, in Europe by visiting their birth homes, residences, palaces and cathedrals where they worked, and to explore the socio-historic context of their lives and work. My study took me to Austria, Germany, France and Italy. Another focus of my trip, besides the birth and workplaces of the composers, was to stop by the great opera houses of Europe. As a choral teacher this was a focus I wanted to be able to research and document as it will form the backbone of project work that I will do as follow up with my classes.

**Career Impact:** As I reflect on the time spent in Europe I realize that often what we set out to study and explore takes us on side trips and journeys we could never anticipate. Learning about Goethe, Schiller, and Martin Luther was not on my agenda but my understanding is deeper and richer as I continued to witness how interwoven the history of Europe is. The development of musical instruments also shed light on so much of my understanding of how classical music style was influenced. Likewise, seeing the palatial and cathedral settings music was composed for, deepened my understanding of how the orchestral size and choral sound was determined.

**Classroom/Community Impact:**\*Sharing with my students in a hands-on way that the repertoire they have studied comes from a specific time and place in cultural history.

\*As our new audiences of tomorrow, my students will see firsthand how relevant the classics are to this day.

\*Classical music is the province of all cultures and all age groups. I want my students to break through those cultural barriers which typically prohibit young people and specific cultural groups of identifying with classical music and opera.

**Open Response:** \* Storytelling - opera in the classroom: how to tell a great story. What is your story?

\* Composing short songs of our stories.

\* Designing a storyboard and making creative decisions on performance, melody, plot, characters for the class opera

\* Making performance decisions

\* Composition and rehearsal of aria, recitative, chorus

\* Relating the experience to our study of the great masters

**Quote:** Imagination creates reality (Richard Wagner)

Photos:



Interactive study of Bach's instrumental music in the Bach museum



Vienna Opera house



Salzburg: city of Mozart



The Mozart Birth Home in Salzburg, Austria



Wahnfried, Richard Wagner's residence in Bayreuth Germany



In La Scala Milan at a performance of The Barber of Seville



Bach's birth home in Eisenach, Germany



Studying the music of Bach in his birth home