

## Celebrating Our Seniors: Tiffany Parker



When I was a freshman in High School, I knew exactly what I wanted to study and how long it would take me to graduate. Well, to my surprise, God had different plans for me. I didn't get into the major I wanted, and after getting rejected time and time again, I finally declared a degree in Music Education. Realizing that that degree also wasn't for me, I created my own: the Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in Contemporary Voice Performance. It is now an official major that anyone can apply to, and I am very proud of that.

I didn't quite fit in any specific box and BYU allowed me to draw my own. Were it not for my personal plans being derailed, I also would have never realized my love for sound and the technical side of live performance. I hold no bitterness toward any of the degrees I auditioned for or participated in; in fact, I'm very grateful that I didn't get what I wanted.

Because it will have taken me 7 years to graduate, I have had more opportunities in more elements of music and theatre than most of my peers. I have spent several years studying tap, jazz, ballet, and hip hop from some of the best teachers in the industry. I have been able to take acting classes from professors who you can see in a lot of famous cinema today and are very well connected. Being a declared music major, I have studied opera, choral music, musical theatre, pop, rock, jazz, music theory, music history, and music teaching techniques that I use almost every single day in my personal and professional life. I have been taught how to play instruments I never would have touched before or never would have realized that I love.

Because BYU allowed me to "Taylor-make" my education to best fit my needs, not only was I able to study music in the way that has best helped me, I was able to declare a minor in Theatre with an emphasis in sound design and technology. This has led

to me being the composer, arranger, music director, and sound designer for BYU's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" directed by Megan Sanborn Jones.

Because of connections from professors like Michelle Ohumukini, I was able to watch the touring musical company of "Wicked" from behind the soundboard and get a private backstage tour from the audio engineer after the show. It also opened doors to becoming part of the Audio Crew that runs all live sound that goes on in the HFAC. Because of the patience and knowledge of my boss and coworkers, I have learned how to mix and operate 5 different, industry-standard soundboards and have worked with some top-of-the-line equipment.

Much to my surprise again, after auditioning 5 times, I finally got into the all-female acapella group BYU Noteworthy and have had so many incredible experiences and opportunities from that, including performing for the current Prophet and the Twelve Apostles. This experience helped me grow tremendously both as a person and a musician and is something I will always be grateful for.

I was able to perform in the staged reading of "Wit" by Margaret Edson at BYU directed by

Megan Sanborn Jones and in my time at BYU, I have put on 2 voice recitals.

More recently I was the lead sound designer for the series of streamed plays at BYU called Illusionary Tales that taught me how to design theatre for a streamed audience during a pandemic that will help me stand out in the industry.

I have had so many incredible experiences at BYU and after taking a Music Business class,

I decided that I needed to start my business account on Instagram (@t3sings) to help spread joy through various singing videos, witty captions, and to start growing myself as a business. On there I share videos of me singing, facts about me, cool events I get to be a part of, and I sometimes share some singing tips on there. Through that little business, I have been able to reach a wider variety of people and have acquired

some really incredible voice students. I plan to eventually build a website and hopefully get into the corporate event/ party singing industry as I continue to build my brand and get my name out there.

As I approach graduation, I am confidently going towards what I know is going to be a very successful future, thanks to my time at BYU.

-Tiffany Parker

I didn't quite fit in any specific box and BYU allowed me to draw my own.

Tiffany Parker

