

The Linn Maxwell Keller Professional Vocalist Experience Award

The Linn Maxwell Keller Professional Vocalist Experience Award was established in 2017 at Grand Valley State University to honor the legacy of Linn Maxwell Keller. Linn Maxwell Keller (1943-2016) was a dedicated professional singer who performed in 28 countries, a scholar, a woman of deep faith, and an inspiring mother and life partner. Linn was born in Indiana, the only child of two musicians. Her mother, Adris, was an accomplished pianist and her father, Colonel Roy Maxwell, sang in the choruses wherever his military career took the family. Linn spent much of her formative years in Bethesda, Maryland and then traveled the world as a professional vocalist, finally making her home in Grand Rapids, Michigan where she was a leader in, and avid supporter of, the performing arts community.

Linn studied music performance at the University of Maryland and earned a Master's degree in music from Catholic University. As a mezzo soprano, Linn performed on many operatic and concert stages from the Essen Opera House in Germany to Puerto Rico and Carnegie Hall. Her one-woman cabaret shows were performed across the world, including in Edinburgh, Scotland, New York City, and a tour of Australia.

At the peak of her career as a professional vocalist, Linn married Fred Keller and became the second mother to Christina, Susan, and Lorissa. As the children grew, she restarted her career, this time focusing on developing her acting and playwriting skills. She went on to write and develop numerous original shows, including the critically acclaimed *Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light*, and *St. Hildegard, Trumpet of God*, turning both of them into movies.

She was the founder and president of the Grand Rapids Bach Festival and served on several artistic boards. Among her many accolades, she was awarded the Joy in Singing Award and received the National Endowment of the Arts Solo Recitalist Grant.

The award's purpose is to provide support for enrichment and professional development experiences for voice students. Use of these funds **may include** support for travel, fees, tuition, and related expenses, including travel to major metropolitan music centers domestically and internationally for outstanding GVSU student vocalists to: participate in Master Classes; coach with noted vocal coaches or conductors; sing auditions for graduate schools; sing auditions for and attend school-break and summer programs; participate in the annual Collegiate Showcase for casting and talent agents in New York City and similar activities; and participate in other programs approved by voice faculty that enhance the students' professional development.

The award is open to voice students who have been accepted for or are currently enrolled at GVSU. They must be in good standing as a sophomore, junior, or senior. Students who receive this award should have exceptional talent, professional intentions, and demonstrated commitment to their vocal career development, as determined by GVSU voice faculty.

One or more awards will be made annually provided there are candidates who meet the qualification criteria. The number and amount of awards will be determined by the number of qualifying students, cost of programs, and distributable amounts available from the Fund.



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
THEATRE, AND DANCE

**The Linn Maxwell Keller
Professional Vocalist
Experience Award
Application**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Currently Enrolled at GVSU (Circle): Yes No Current GPA: _____

Current Class (Circle): Sophomore Junior Senior

Type of Requested Activity (Check Box):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of Town Master Class	<input type="checkbox"/>	New York City Showcase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of Town Coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	Audition for Graduate School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pay to Sing Program - National	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pay to Sing Program - International
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Please Explain: _____		

Attach a brief description of the activity to this form. Please include the name of program, name of coach(es), location, length of activity, and available links to online information about the program/coach/etc.

Request reimbursement for:

_____.	Tuition/Fees
_____.	Required Materials (Scores, Books, Costumes, etc.)
_____.	Transportation Costs (Airfare, Mileage, Taxi, etc.)
_____.	Housing
_____.	Food
_____.	TOTAL REQUESTED

Notes:

- GVSU travel and expense guidelines apply. See <https://www.gvsu.edu/busfin/concur-university-travel-and-expense-management-54.htm> for additional information. In order to receive reimbursement, you must provide original receipts.
- Recipients are required to write a thank you letter by the end of the semester in which they receive the award detailing how it enhanced their professional vocalist endeavors.
- Recipients are also required to participate in a performance/reception with the award initiators as scheduled by the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

Applicant Signature: _____

Voice Faculty Sponsor (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit completed applications to Cassie DeHaan at dehaacas@gvsu.edu.