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Dream comes true for student opera singer

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

It was a made-for-the-movies moment. During a spring fund-raiser at Detroit's Belle Isle Conservatory, guests mingled while student members of the **Michigan Opera Theatre** (MOT) opera camp performed.

As Krysty Swann, OU senior music major, performed "O Mio Fernando" from Donizetti, the room fell silent.

"Everyone was quite taken with her," said Edie Diggory, OU music instructor and Swann's voice coach. "She has an absolutely terrific, unique voice."

When Swann finished, David DiChiera, general director of the Michigan Opera Theatre, stepped on stage and whispered in Swann's ear, offering her the role of Countess Ceprano in Verdi's "Rigoletto" for the MOT.

Speechless, Swann nodded, and DiChiera announced it to the crowd.

"I was absolutely shocked. I'm an undergraduate student, I still have a lot to learn," Swann said. "Words can't describe how I feel. It's surreal."

The opera will be performed in October.

Swann recently received the Outstanding Student in Voice Performance Award from the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** in the **College of Arts and Sciences**.

For a student who came to OU with a dream to sing opera, Swann's well on her way. For the sequel, she's planning to audition at graduate schools such as Juilliard and perform at the top opera houses in the world.

SUMMARY

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