

Mezzo-soprano Amanda Finch first met music professor Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki two years ago when she was assigned to his voice studio as a jazz vocalist. Given the choice to continue as jazz major or explore her voice from a classical perspective, Finch chose to study as a classical major under Biernacki's expert tutelage.

Since then, Finch made her operatic debut singing two lead roles in the UNF Opera Ensemble's production of Henry Purcell's "Dido & Aeneas," and she is well into preparing for a senior solo recital which will include selections from jazz, cabaret, art song, opera and oratorio repertoire. She plans to graduate in spring 2008 and pursue a master's degree.

Amanda Finch:

Dr. Biernacki came in and took the school by storm, making additions and changes that really began to bring the voice department into view. The only thing I did was recognize what a revolutionary he was becoming in the department and jump on the bandwagon. I was waiting for a challenge, and he brought it in.

This interaction has given me more confidence in my musical abilities and in myself. Dr. Biernacki is constantly challenging me and making me expect more from myself and from my voice. He has opened my mind and made me aware of my vocal potential and the possibilities that are out there. On a personal level, I believe that I have gained a life-long friend in him. This collaboration is going to carry well beyond graduate school ... his support is something I will treasure for a lifetime.

Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki:

From the beginning I was quite impressed not only with the beauty and power of Amanda's voice, but also with her ambition, curious mind, and obvious talent as a natural musician and performer. Being able to work with young singers is a combination of real privilege and true responsibility. It is very rare to find a student who would willingly explore characteristics of their voice and personality beyond a well-known vocal landscape and take on a challenge of the seemingly opposite genre of music. Amanda not only had the right kind of voice, but also possessed that rare artistic curiosity which urges all of us to explore further and eventually face up to the challenge.

Amanda's unusual combination of jazz and classical training allows her to market herself as a truly versatile vocal artist.



COLLABORATION
BIERNACKI & FINCH