

**Bianca Schramm - Vocalist - Fifth Annual Recipient of the \$1,000 NCHS John Pearce Performing Arts Scholarship.**

The fifth annual recipient of Naperville Central High School's John Pearce Performing Arts Scholarship is vocalist, Bianca Schramm. The \$1,000 award has been created as part of the Naperville Education Foundation (NEF) - [www.nef203.org](http://www.nef203.org). The scholarship, established by alumni of Naperville Central High School's music program, honors the 20 years (1965-1985) that John Pearce served as choral instructor, musical director and Music Department Chair. Former students benefitted greatly from Mr. Pearce's musical gifts, direction and discipline in the arts and have created this scholarship in his memory. The scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding graduating senior from the NCHS band, choir or orchestra. Schramm completed an extensive application process that included information about herself, a 500 word essay along with two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with her work. Bianca's quality application determined her as a finalist; resulting in a live audition for the committee.

Bianca has been training vocally for eight years under the skilled instruction of Mark Mavetz, Rose Colella and Marie Groh; where she has immersed herself in multiple musical styles: musical theater, jazz and opera. In November, Bianca performed at Carnegie Hall in New York for the International Golden Classical Music Awards and became a first place winner in the solo voice category. She has performed leading roles in Naperville Central High School productions such as Lois Lane - *Kiss Me Kate* (2018) and Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* (2017). She also played Paulette in Brightside Theater's production of *Legally Blonde* (2016). At Naperville Central High School, Bianca is Chair of Service for the National Honor Society, Vice-President of the Tri-M Music Honors Society and is co-leader of Choremelles female a cappella group. Bianca plans to major in creative writing or communications in college while pursuing vocal performance and musical theater opportunities.

Bianca is honored to win the John Pearce Performing Arts Scholarship. "I am grateful to Steering Committee Chair Raeleen Horn, the panel of judges and involved alumni for providing such a magnificent opportunity to Naperville Central music students and for their generous contribution to further support my pursuit of music in college. Many thanks to NCHS Choral Director Kelly Mielcarz, for her musical direction, support and being a role model for her students." Bianca thanks her parents, Markus and Shanti Schramm, for providing her with the resources, support and unconditional love needed to grow as a musician.

Bianca will perform her two vocal solo audition pieces as part of the Naperville Central High School choral concert on March 19 at 7 p.m. She will be presented with the John Pearce Performing Arts Scholarship award by Raeleen Horn - Class of 1976 and JPPAS Steering Committee Chair. Horn adds "this is a wonderful opportunity to honor a great teacher through supporting our youth who plan to continue their musical experiences at the college level and beyond."

Contact Raeleen Horn for further information: [raeleenhorn@gmail.com](mailto:raeleenhorn@gmail.com)



