

Brigham
Young
University -
Hawaii
Sept 17
1997

Dreams Come True

■ Diana Walker fulfills her childhood desires on stage ■

By Keri Gunter ~ Staff Writer

Soprano Diana Walker delighted students, faculty, and members of the community in a sold-out concert last Wednesday.

At a very young age, Walker discovered her passion for music while singing along with recordings of Broadway musicals. When Walker was five, her mother took her to see two influential movies; "The Sound of Music," and "My Fair Lady." After seeing these films, Walker knew that she wanted to pursue a career on the stage.

When Walker was five, her mother took her to see two influential movies; "The Sound of Music," and "My Fair Lady." After seeing these films, Walker knew that she wanted to pursue a career on the stage.

In keeping with this dream, the program began with a delightfully theatrical rendition of "I Could Have Danced All Night," followed by a menagerie of Broadway favorites. Included were well-known selections such as "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Miserables" and "If I Loved You" from "Carousel," as well as some less-known yet equally entertaining pieces such as a tasty little treat called "Vanilla Ice Cream" from "She Loves Me."

"Think of Me" was my favorite," sophomore Becky Coulson said. "I had always loved 'Phantom of the Opera' and to hear the song sung by such a wonderfully talented person just made the song ten times better."

In addition, the audience was treated to three incredible piano solos by Walker's accompanist David Glenn Hatch. The first of which, a personal arrangement of "Memory" from "Cats," enthralled the audience. During the second

half, Hatch played several etudes he referred to as "Passion from the Russians."

"I am a Child of God" was my favorite," sophomore Jackie Larsen said. "I love the song and Hatch's arrangement was incredible. The spirit was beautifully illustrated by the depth and feeling of the piece."

The second half of the program began with several classical pieces. Although none of the pieces were in English, Walker's stature and expression conveyed enough meaning to make the foreign numbers as engaging as the Broadway favorites.

The finale was comprised of favorite church hymns and other religious pieces. In honor of the sesquicentennial, Walker sang "Pioneer Lullaby," a song which tells the story of a pioneer mother whose baby dies and is buried along the trail. This piece made both singer and audience cry.

In keeping with the spirit of the last numbers, the audience was asked to hold their applause until the end, at which time Walker received a standing ovation which led to an encore piece, "Beauty and the Beast."

"I didn't expect to enjoy [the concert], but I left wanting more," Larsen said.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SUSAN TEH

The musicals, "My Fair Lady" and "The Sound of Music" influenced Diana Walker's stage career path.