

AD2005 NEWSLETTER

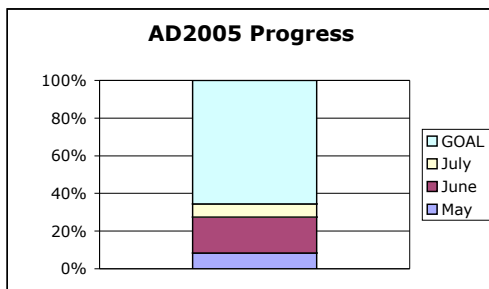
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It has been three months since the AD2005 fundraising campaign was launched. This newsletter contains an update on the campaign's progress, a report on how the money is being used, and some developments in Andrew's career.

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

As of August 1, Andrew has covered more than 30% of the distance toward his goal of raising \$32,000 by the end of October. This initial support has two immediate results: 1) it has encouraged Andrew to continue connecting with friends and arts supporters, sharing his dream with them, and asking for their assistance, and 2) he has raised enough now to make plans for training and audition trips this fall. Andrew wants to say "THANK YOU" to all who have so generously contributed thus far!



FUNDS ALLOCATION

Some of the initial donation money was used to pay for a trip to New York for several voice lessons in April, and an audition trip to Amarillo in May. A small portion of the funds is being used to continue the fundraising effort. A few hundred dollars was used to offset transportation costs to a job this summer in Tulsa (see LOOK below). Andrew will use some of the money raised to make trips to Tuscon and New York in August and September for voice coaching and lessons and to prepare new audition repertoire. In addition, he would like to make a new a publicity CD this fall to send out to agents and opera companies in hopes of securing auditions later in the fall and next spring, a critical pre-cursor to "breaking-in."

CAREER DEVELOPMENTS

Andrew just finished singing in Light Opera Oklahoma's season in Tulsa. Light Opera Oklahoma (LOOK) is a small professional regional company here in Oklahoma. Most of the leads were hired in New York auditions, and the



professional chorus was made up primarily of college students who are vocal performance or musical theatre majors who aspire to stage and singing careers. He sang the lead tenor, Nanki-Poo, in Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado" and Nelson Deadly, one

of two lead tenors, in Edwin Penhorwood's contemporary opera "Too Many Sopranos." "The Mikado" received good reviews in the local press. His by-line read "Ranson as Nanki-Poo...has an air of nobility around him—even his singing has a kind of stately, noble tone to it." A later review stated, "Andrew Ranson's keening tenor and solid straight-man schtick as Nanki-Poo...[was] in place and entertaining."

All in all the season was a success. Andrew is building a reputation as an energetic and consistent performer who is also a good colleague (an important consideration when directors and conductors are considering rehiring someone).

This season at LOOK, Andrew reached one important milestone: singing a leading role with a professional company. However, the biggest challenges are to come. To truly "break in" as a leading operatic tenor will require diligent preparation and persistent effort. Andrew wants to thank each of you for the various ways in which you support him. Look for additional news as things develop.