

ALEXANDRA WISEMAN
By Josephine Andò

Soprano Alexandra Wiseman built great relationships in Tampa when she was an OTAP during the last opera season. And after getting chosen to be an OTAP for the second straight year, Alexandra is happy to be home.

“I’m glad to return to my family and friends in Florida,” she said, “and I enjoyed the V.O.I.C.Experience program even more this year. Last year I didn’t know anybody; this year I grew relationships with the coaches that I already knew. We bonded together.”

She also hopes that this year will give her another chance “to prove herself, become a better artist and bring excitement about opera to the local community.”

Alexandra believes that when people enjoy something, they should show it, as the kids do when they sing along with the opera singers during outreaches.

“I love to go sing in schools because kids don’t know rules and they just react,” she said, “and when you sing for them, you know that you have a sincere and usually engaged audience in front of you.”

Among all the outreaches and events that she did last year, one particular episode lingers in her memory.

“We were at the McDonald training center. I was singing a piece from Puccini’s ‘La Rondine,’ which is called ‘Chi il Bel Sogno’ and, all of a sudden, a woman started crying very loud,” she said. “Later on, after the performance she approached me and she explained to me that she was raised in a way that didn’t allow her to openly express her feelings. The fact that opera made her cry was a huge relief for her.”

Alexandra would like to see even more growth in the OTAP program.

“I hope it will become a resident artist program that will last all year around,” she said. “People would be more exposed to our outreaches and take ‘ownership’ of the singers. I think that if the program will develop in that direction, it will be of incredible help for the whole community.”