

# Kristin Faerber follows her musical dream

By SANDY PEOPLES  
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - "I can't remember a time when I wasn't interested in music," said Kristen Faerber, a 1997 Dallas High School graduate and mezzo-soprano.

Now, she has turned her fascination with the vocal arts into a budding career that will take her west to the Utah Opera.

"My dad enjoys classical and Broadway music and loved to take my mother and me to New York City a couple of times a year to see plays with mostly musical themes. When I was only two and a half years old, they took me to see 'Annie' on Broadway. I sat through the whole thing, and at that moment, I became Annie. I sang and danced around the living room much to the delight of my parents and grandparents, and I knew from that moment on that I wanted to make music my life's work."

Faerber's first solo vocal performance was in her grandfather's church when she was only 2 years old. Encouraged by her mother, who is a pianist, organist and elementary school teacher, Faerber began to take piano lessons at an early age.

"After school I would visit my grandmother, and she would listen to me practice until supper time," said Faerber. "I remember when I was in competition for a Paderewski gold medal. She became my warden as we practiced together until I was ready for the big day."

During her years at Dallas

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Kristin Faerber  
1997 Dallas High graduate

High School, Faerber was in the school chorus and drama department and performed in every play from her freshman through her senior year. She placed first in the state in the All-Eastern choral competition and went on to Baltimore for the nationals.

Faerber recently received a Master's of Music in Voice Performance with honors from the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston and holds a bachelor's, magna cum laude, in Voice Performance from Boston University. She was an active member of the New England Conservatory Opera Department performing three leading roles in their 2002-03 season.

At Boston University she was an alto soloist in Mendelssohn's Elijah with the Boston University Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra and a recipient of the Ella Lou Dimmock Award. She also participated in Boston University Opera Institute productions.

In the fall of 2002, she sang in the chorus of the Boston Lyric Opera's production of Bizet's Carmen, which was presented on Boston Common. She also sang the role of Melanto in the Boston premiere of Monteverdi's Il ritorno d'Ulisse

in Patria with Boston Baroque, which received favorable reviews from the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, and Boston Phoenix.

"This summer I am thrilled to be joining the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, MA as a Vocal Fellow," said Faerber. In the fall I will begin a 10-month engagement as an Apprentice Artist with the Utah Opera in Salt Lake City."

Faerber's years of hard work and study are paying off for her in many ways. "It's hard to grasp," she said. "I can't believe that someone is actually willing to pay me to do this thing that I love so much. It hasn't quite hit me yet. Performers always wait for that next job. We plot and plan and make alternative plans like waiting tables to support ourselves. It's a thrill to be

able to turn my high school hobby into a job that people appreciate. I love the fact that my performances teach people about music the way that I was first taught."

She credits her parents and grandparents for their love and support. "Lots of times I doubted myself," she said. "There were times when I wasn't sure if I should just give up or not and do something else. But with their encouragement, I stuck with it. Their strength became my strength. It has rewarded me in ways that I could never imagine."

"We're so proud of her," said her mother, Beth Faerber, "but we miss her so much when she's gone on tour. She has such a wonderful gift, and we realize that this is what she was meant to do."

Faerber is the daughter of William and Elizabeth Faerber and the granddaughter of Rev. Andrew and Edith Pillarella, Dallas.

After reflecting on her life thus far, Faerber has three words of advice for young people — "Follow your dreams."



Kristin Faerber

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