

An Alumna's Perspective

Stephanie Chee (BUTI '16) recalls her BUTI experience.



My name is Stephanie Chee, and I am a seventeen-year-old vocalist from California. Last summer, I attended BUTI's six-week Young Artists Vocal Program. Before attending BUTI, I had never participated in an intensive experience outside of my weekly voice lessons. I knew that I loved to sing, but I didn't have a clear picture of the schedule and requirements necessary to major in music. BUTI changed this.

Daily, I took classes in music history, diction, theory, sight singing, and chorus. I received voice lessons, coachings, classes, and master classes with distinguished professionals. Throughout the summer, I was assigned two songs and one opera scene. If I was not scheduled for opera scenes rehearsals in the evening, my friends and I flocked to the beautiful Seiji Ozawa Hall and Koussevitzky Shed for Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Music Center concerts. Some of the best memories of my life were made sitting under those stars, listening to the most amazing classical music in the world.

The unique opportunities offered by BUTI are like no other. The diverse background of students--instrumentalists, vocalists, and composers--exposed me to the different realms of classical music. My teachers were also incredible. They were always willing to go above and beyond to help me succeed. Likewise, the Tanglewood environment is in a sphere of its own. The vast expanse of grassy hills and flourishing trees is something I don't see a lot as a California native, and it was truly a privilege to wake up to the beauty of nature every day for six weeks.

Above all, BUTI helps students develop both technique and artistry, preparing them for a future in classical music. I am incredibly indebted to BUTI, not just for the rigorous voice training, but more importantly, the irreplaceable life lessons. The friendships that I made will last forever. I will never forget my time at BUTI. The *magic of Tanglewood* changed my life. And it will change yours too.

