

Making Music

You'll find Allison Steenblik on stage with the best

Allison Steenblik will have performed in 18 musicals by the end of her senior year, but her favorite role was one of her first.

"Back in sixth grade I played Brigitta in *The Sound of Music*. My brother was Captain Von Trapp, my sister was a nun and the maid, and the whole atmosphere was fun being with the big high school kids on stage," she says. "*The Sound of Music* got me loving theater at Saint George's."

Her most recent role was in the Upper School's fall musical *The Apple Tree* playing the silly blonde role of Passionella. "[Drama teacher] Jeanne Hardie helped me create a Marilyn Monroe character who was a lot of fun to play." Her biggest challenge wasn't singing or acting. "I was scared about the fast costume changes. I'd sprint backstage where three helpers were waiting to change my wig, dress and boots with just a few seconds of music before I was back on stage again."

Packing a lot into her time at Saint George's is the way Allison has operated. There were piano lessons, flute lessons, and playing in the Spokane Youth Symphony along with youth groups and musical opportunities at her church. Her days still begin with a 6 a.m. bible study, and she drives to weekly voice lessons during her study hall.

She reached what she describes as "the breaking point" her freshman year trying to

balance sports, lessons, classes, and being in a musical. "I had to drop softball — it was just too much."

The sport she did hold on to was volleyball, a passion since she started playing on the seventh-grade team as a sixth grader. "My dad took me to college games and inspired me to play," she remembers. "As a senior, our varsity team was undefeated in League and won the League title."

If Allison had to pick her two favorite teachers, they would be Deena Barber and Judson Ford. "Deena made me love history and was my advocate when I had coaches and music and drama teachers all mad at me," she remembers. "Judson can explain a math concept a hundred different ways until I get it. He's been a lifesaver."

But she credits her mother with inspiring her love of music, along with seeing her older siblings in the SGS Jazz Ensemble. "Music is where my heart lies. I love being part of the Saint George's choir." And after being named to All-State and All-Northwest Choirs the past two years, she will sing again in the All-State Chorus in February.

Another audition landed her in this fall's performance of *100 Years of Broadway* at the Fox Theater. As one of five singers chosen from video auditions, Allison joined the final number on stage — "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*. She also knocked on doors backstage before curtain time to talk with the Broadway stars in the show. "I asked how they got into this, tips on the business, and even had dinner with them."

What's next for Allison? Her plan is college in Utah near her father's family and older siblings. "And somehow I want to combine my loves for music, medicine, and kids. Maybe music therapy? But whatever I do, there will be music involved and I'll find some way to get on stage."

— John Carter



Allison as Passionella in *The Apple Tree* and waiting for a serve on the volleyball court

