

# Larissa Senior – BRIT School Application

## Supporting Documents:

- Reference letter from singing/songwriting teacher SuRie (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SuRie>)
- Reference letter from singing teacher Pauline Weindorf (<http://www.pauline-weindorf.de/>)
- Confirmation letter for selection for the Ernst-Mach-Gymnasium EXTRA program for especially gifted students.  
(English translation appended.)

## Supporting Audio:

- Cover versions:
  - [Billie Eilish: 'Happier Than Ever'](#)
  - [Mitski: 'Last Words Of A Shooting Star'](#)
- [Original Song: 'Hopeful'](#)

**Lara Senior** [reference]

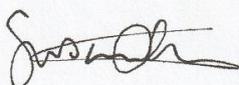
I've had the absolute pleasure of working with Lara weekly since September 2020 and have been in awe of Lara's natural talent, creativity and her attitude - showing immense wisdom, modesty and positivity through bleak lockdowns, school closures and all the other challenges and pressures the pandemic has piled onto teenagers. Lara has consistently approached her creative work with the maturity and passion of someone way beyond her years, making her a complete delight to spend any amount of time with.

Whilst beginning in a vocal coach capacity, it was thrilling to hear Lara explore her vast range, technical proficiency and individuality, putting her own take on material by artists she is influenced by. Lara has a very special tone and a compelling emotional connection. I had to keep reminding myself, at the time, Lara was only 12 years old. It was quickly established Lara had a keen interest in exploring her own songwriting and our sessions moved into the development of that. It is hard to describe just how much I have enjoyed picking apart topics and putting the world to rights with Lara as she finds wise and wonderful ways to describe how she's feeling, what she's experiencing and what she's dreaming about, in song form. Her poetic use of language and vivid imagination is enhanced by the novels she reads and the intelligence, kindness and willingness to listen that she brings to conversations with peers and collaborators. Lara is organised and responsible with her workload and whilst I get the impression that the German education system is laudably driving and pushing their students, Lara seems to not only manage, but also thrive in this environment, constantly seeking to absorb and learn more. She has a real determination and ability to achieve across the board, extra-curricularly as well as within her core subjects.

Lara's honesty and openness in our creative writing sessions, albeit always working remotely (Zooming UK - Germany), is remarkable and I do believe her to be a true artist. I am constantly impressed by her perception of the world around her and her place in it. She wears her heart on her sleeve and isn't afraid to take a deep, dark dive into her emotions to paint a musically vivid, evocative picture. Lara balances this lack of self-inhibition with the right amount of self-criticism, always striving to better her skills and never settling for less.

Having worked with a vast number of individuals over the past 14 years I can confidently say I have not yet met someone as captivatingly unique, as a vocalist, songwriter and young person, as Lara. I'm incredibly excited for the future path of this young artist and hope she gets all the opportunities she deserves to fully reach her potential. Lara's maturity, dedication, focus and professionalism far surpasses her age and I have absolutely no doubt she can cope with the change and challenge of moving school and country. Her passion and motivation is inspiring, whilst she also remains one of the kindest, most modest young people I've met.

I firmly believe Lara would be an absolute asset to The BRIT school and that this would be the perfect environment for Lara to immerse herself fully in the creative world through these formative years, exploring her artistry further and collaborating with the rich pool of creativity around her. I can think of no other place better for this, than The BRIT.



Susanna Cork

*Singer / Songwriter [SuRie]*

Pauline Weindorf  
Freie Musikwerkstatt  
81825 München/ 85567 Grafing

27.11.2021

BRIT School  
The Crescent 60, Croydon CR0 2HN  
United Kingdom

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wholeheartedly recommend Larissa Senior for admission to your fine college. As her singing teacher for the past years I did watch Larissa grow as a musician as well as a person.

She started taking singing lessons in 2017 and from the beginning Larissa was highly motivated in developing her skills. As a child she had great backup from her skilled father, but step by step she got more independent in preparing the upcoming lessons.

Larissa is interested in a wide variety of musical styles. We worked on genres such as swing music, bossa nova, pop, singer songwriter and jazz.

In the past two years Larissa took lessons with a second singing teacher. During those lessons and in between songwriting is the biggest subject.

Not only her singing skills are constantly developing, we also did ear training including four sounds reversal and stage theory harmonic.

During the past year Larissa seriously prepared for qualifying at BRIT school. She kept herself busy studying harmony and the piano.

Larissa Senior is one of the few students about whom I have absolutely no reservations in terms of academic and personal success. I hold her in the highest regard and am positive she will succeed in BRIT School.

Sincerely,  
Pauline Weindorf

Bachelor of Arts Jazz Singing  
Vocal Coach  
Choir Coach



**ERNST-MACH-  
GYMNASIUM HAAR**  
Sprachliches und  
naturwissenschaftlich-  
technologisches Gymnasium

## Bescheinigung

Larissa Senior (Klasse 8a) wurde im Schuljahr 2021/2022 für das EXTRA-Programm für besonders begabte Schüler am Ernst-Mach-Gymnasium ausgewählt.

Haar im November 2021

Gabriele Langner  
Schulleiterin

Susanne Adler-Aschauer  
Koordination Begabtenförderung

ERNST-MACH  
GYMNASIUM HAAR

Gymnasium specialising in  
languages and natural  
science/technology

## **CONFIRMATION**

In the school year 2021/2022 Larissa Senior (class 8a) has been selected for the EXTRA programme at Ernst-Mach-Gymnasium for especially gifted students.

Haar, November 2021

Signed  
Gabriele Langner  
Principal

Susanne Adler-Aschauer  
Coordinator of the Gifted &  
Talented Programme