

MEREDITH EIB

Hometown: Kingston, N.H.

Class Year: 2017

From the time she was 13, Meredith Eib has understood the power music has to heal and bring joy — a discovery that resulted from her grandmother’s struggle with Alzheimer’s Disease. Eib was determined to find a way to make a connection despite her grandmother’s failing memory.

She quickly discovered that her grandmother, a former pianist, would light up whenever Eib visited her to sing and play the piano. Long after she forgot Eib’s name, she would still smile, make eye contact, and connect with her granddaughter through music.

Those experiences stayed with Eib when she began her studies as a musical theatre major at Catholic University’s Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. She felt torn between her love of music and the deep calling she felt to serve others.

Despite a demanding academic schedule, Eib participated in nearly every service activity possible, from entertaining the elderly to visiting the physically and mentally disabled to serving as a cantor at Mass. But she still felt a disconnect between her passion for music and her commitment to service.

Eventually, with the support of music school faculty, Eib created a new minor that combines music with a mission of service. The minor, Music as a Form of Education and Service, comprises courses in music education, general education, theology, and psychology with the goal of using music to teach, heal, and connect with others.

“One of my biggest struggles was dealing with the separation of Meredith the music major and Meredith who volunteers with Campus Ministry,” said Eib. “It took me a while to realize that I could bring them together.”

Eib was honored for her service and academic activities when she received the President’s Award from President John Garvey at this year’s Commencement ceremony. The award is the highest honor given to graduating seniors in recognition of service, leadership, and outstanding scholarship.