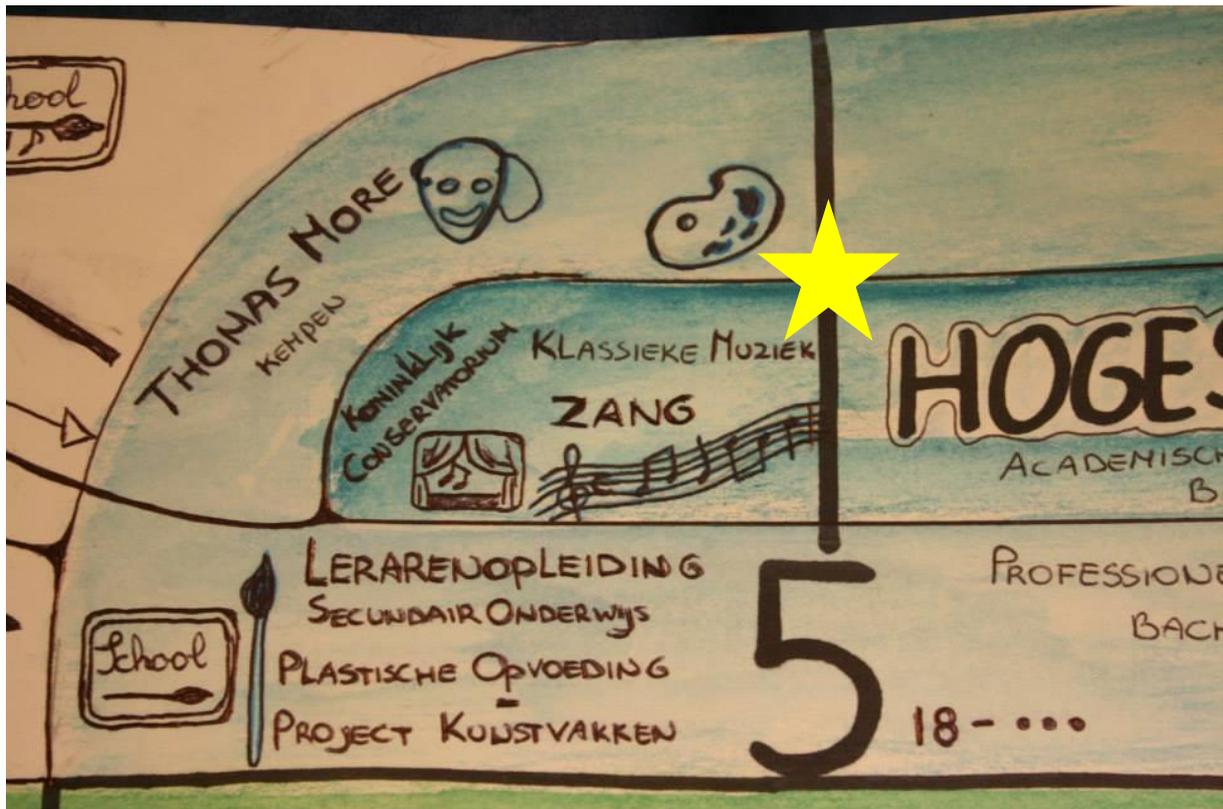


MY EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Fien Bombeke



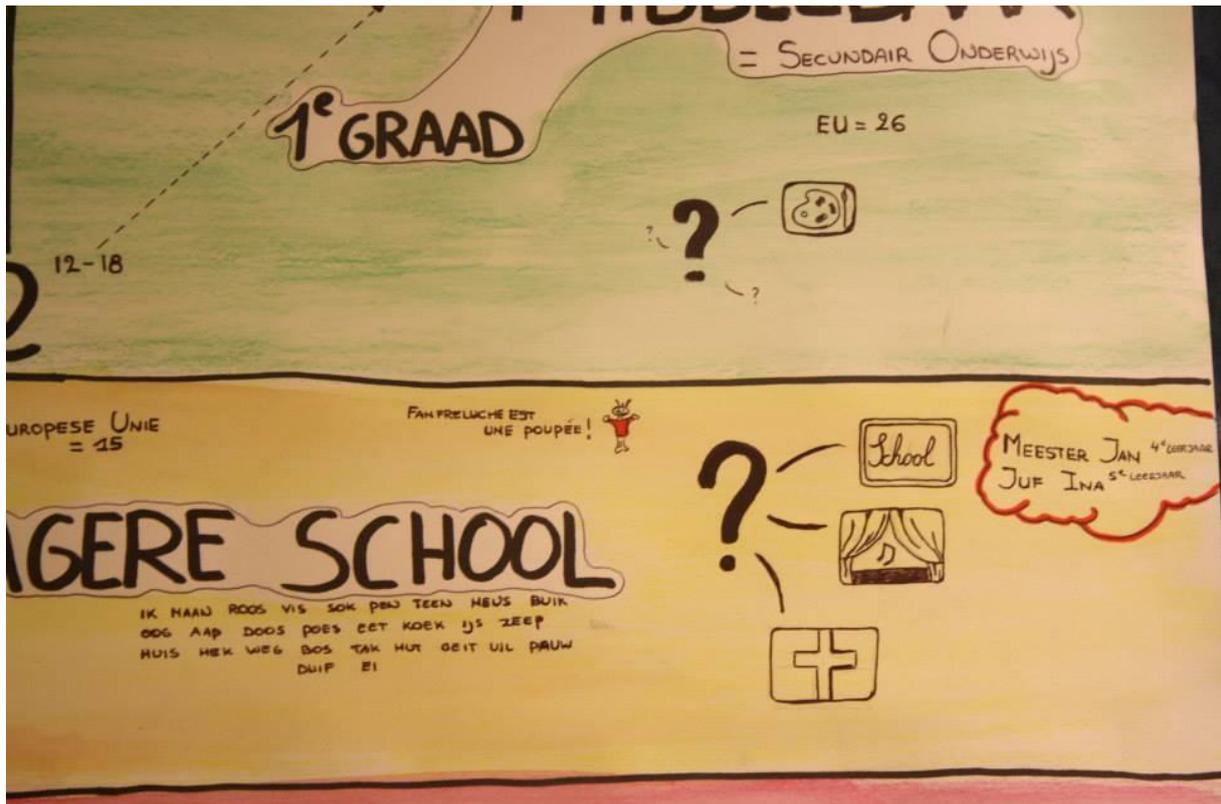
My milestone represents a big choice I had to make two years ago.

As you can see on my educational ladder, I always had two future paths in my mind. (Except for primary school when I wanted to be a nun after watching *the sound of music*.) I was always choosing between becoming an arts teacher or an opera singer. And yes, I tried both.

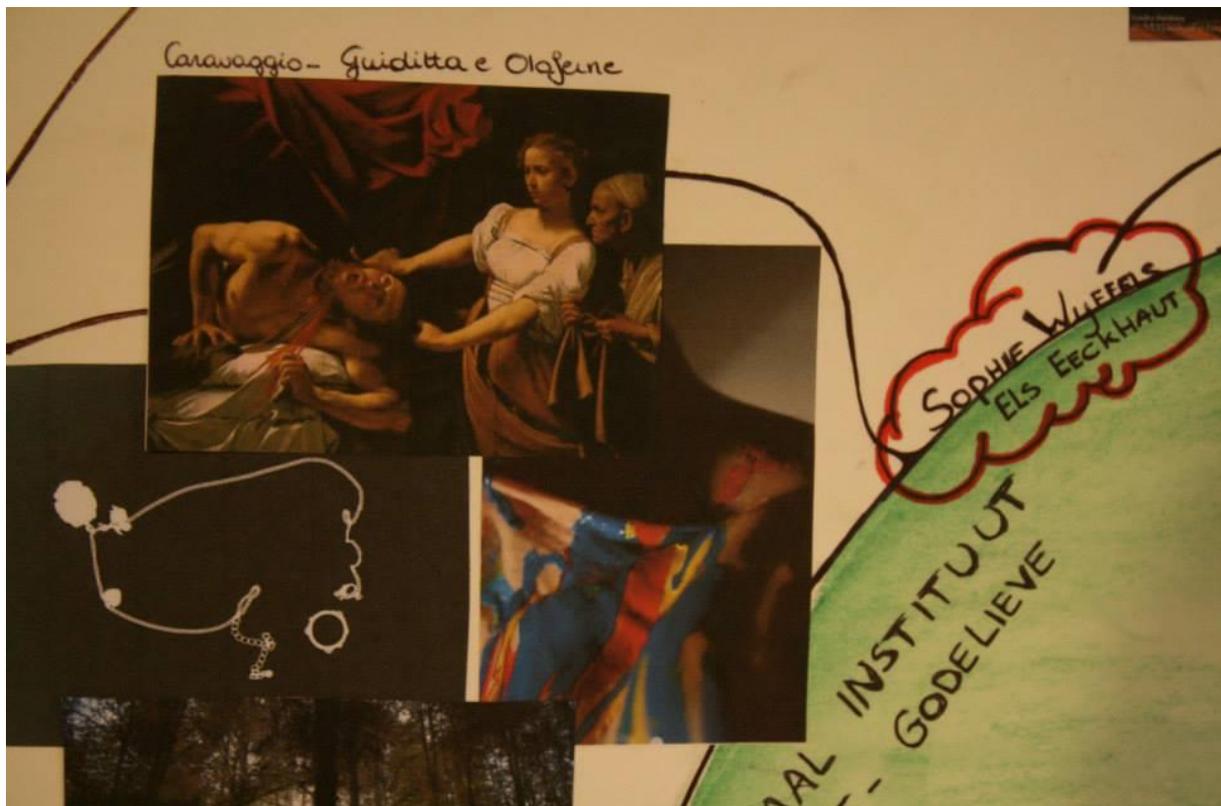
In 2010 I graduated from secondary school and after the summer vacation I decided to pick teachers education for secondary schools at first because I thought that I could always sing and try that after I had a diploma. Anyway, after one year of teaching education, the best year of my life, I got an offer at the royal conservatory of Antwerp, to sing in the class of Lubov Stucheveskaya, a Russian singing teacher. It was an opportunity I couldn't miss so I set my teachers education *on hold*, studied through the summer to prepare for the entrance examination, passed and went to the conservatory. And I have never regret that decision. But as you can see, I'm now in my last year of teachers education for arts and cultural studies.

Throughout the year of 2011-2012, I started to feel that only singing was not enough for me and the musicians world wasn't *that* appealing. I knew after a few months that I didn't want to be an opera singer on stage, that I didn't want to become a silly diva that couldn't eat tikka masala curry on the day she had to sing. But I'm not a quitter. So the decision I made that year was hard.

But I was being prepared for the stage, for the whole package of *diva's studies* and that was not at all my style so it resulted in: "*Fien, it would be better for you to double your year because than next year you would be able to feel better than someone else.*" That was it. I couldn't do that. It was totally against my values.



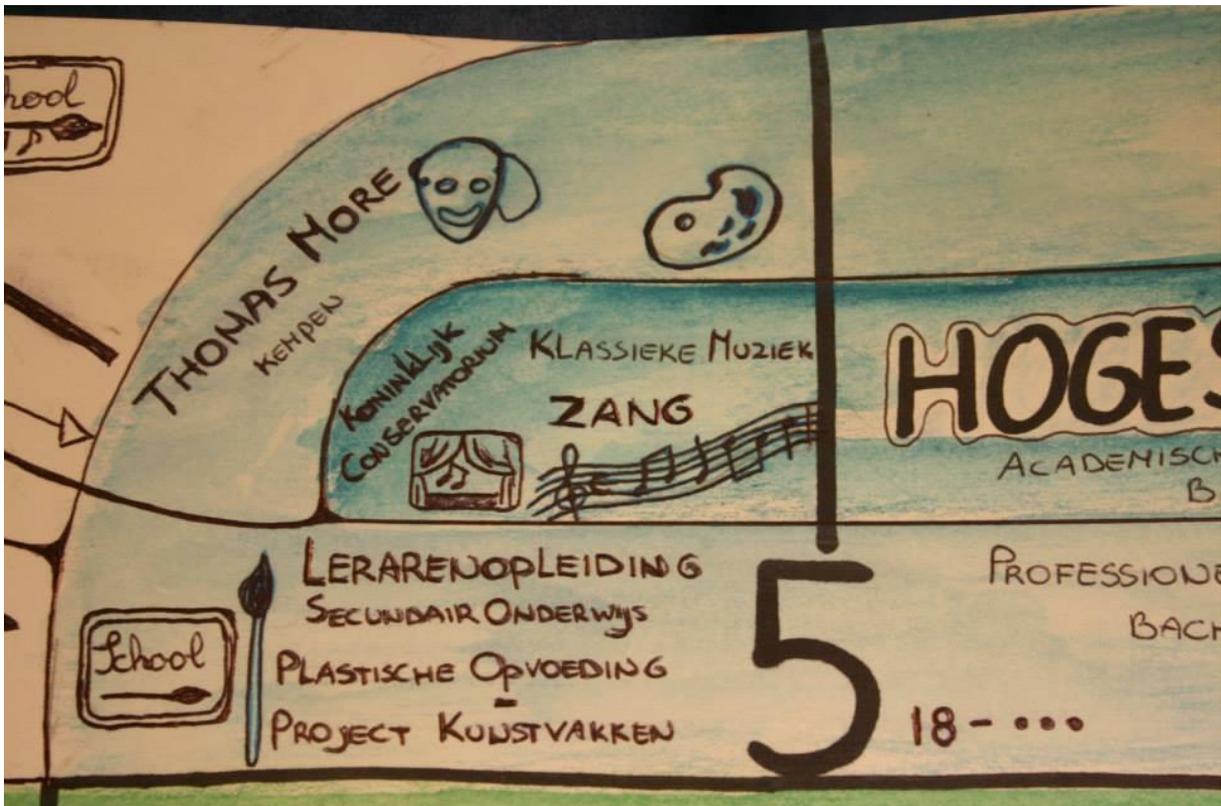
2 Primary school: Teachers Jan and Ina were the best! I learned a lot from them. I wanted to be a teacher, a nun or an opera singer at that time.



3: Second and Third grade of Secondary school: I was studying arts and Misses Sophie Wijffels taught me arts history. She's such a wonderful teacher that she's the reason I went to teachers studies.



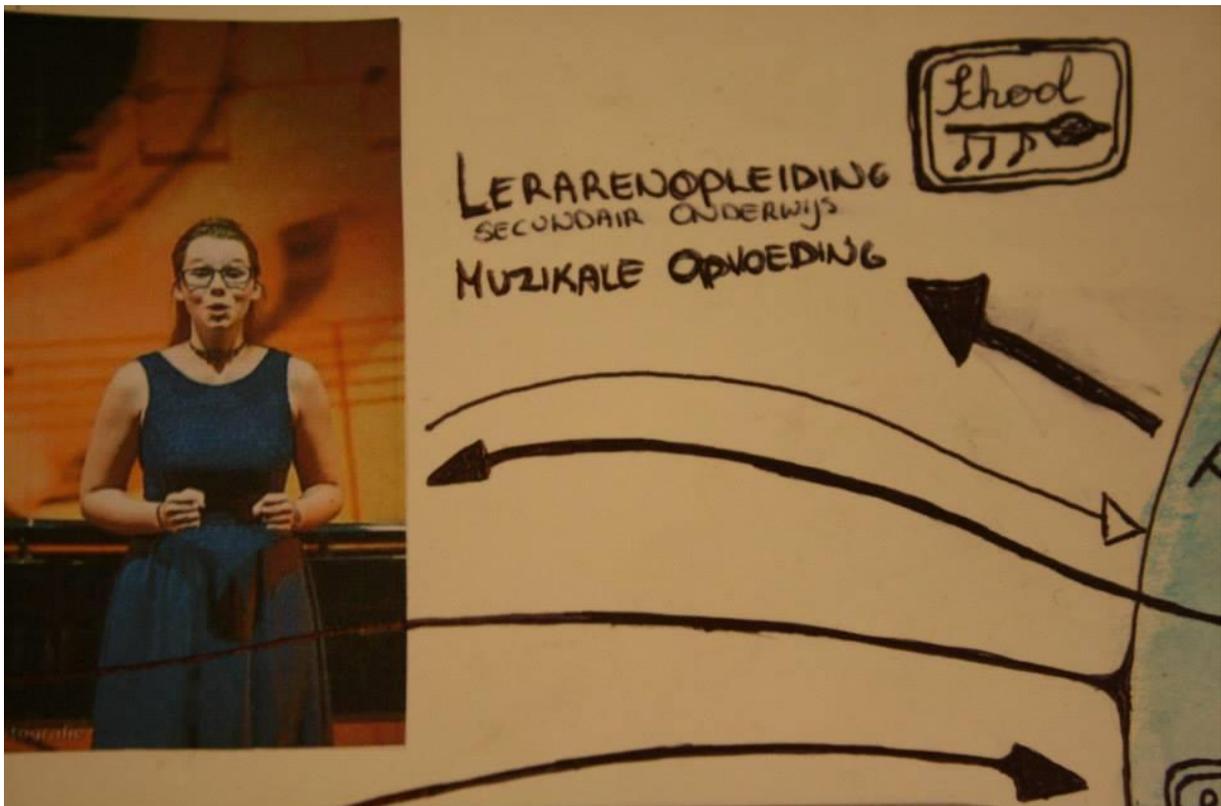
4 Second and third grade of secondary school: My class...



5 Bachelor in Teaching Education in arts and cultural studies and Bachelor in Classical Music and back to Teaching Education.



6 Bachelor in Teaching Education in arts and cultural studies: My class and things we do at school.



7 The future: Teaching Education in Music. The perfect match.