

## **Rising Fourth Year Miller Arts Scholar Art Award Proposal**

### **Title:**

Funds Towards Distinguished Major Project

### **Description:**

I am applying for a fourth-year award to purchase two instrument libraries and a Zoom Field recorder for use in my upcoming distinguished major project. The distinguished major project is the culmination of my past few years at UVA and will build on my existing composition skills and training by allowing me to focus on a large scale composition. This three part project will involve studying how to write idiomatically for classical guitar, writing a classical inspired multi-movement piece for guitar and piano, and will conclude with a live recital performance of the composition. My main distinguished major advisor, Professor Burtner, has experience writing for guitar and will provide needed guidance throughout the year as part of my MUSI 4993 Independent Study enrollment both semesters. Professor Burtner is well suited to serve as my faculty advisor on this project. As part of Professor Reid's Composition I and II (MUSI 4581 and 4582), I will study classical composition and compose the piece. Both courses are project-based composition classes and will allow me to focus on my distinguished major project under the tutelage of my second distinguished major advisor.

Included in my budget are two instrument libraries and a Zoom Field recorder that will enable me to bring my distinguished major project to fruition. I currently use NotePerformer for large scale compositions involving a full orchestra and plan to use Logic Pro for this composition because I will be using the Spectrasonic Keyscape piano I obtained through the Fall 2023 Miller Arts Minigrant. Spectrasonic Keyscape does not work with Dorico which means I will need to use Logic Pro. In addition, although NotePerformer has guitar sounds, NotePerformer only works with Dorico and has a limited guitar library. To fully realize my composition, I need the ability to work with different guitars. The Ample Guitar Library I have selected is expansive and professional quality. It will allow me to experiment with a variety of guitars (acoustic, electric, banjo, and more), and provide the flexibility to try a range of genres as I study guitar and develop my composition throughout the year. As I will be using Logic Pro, I also need a strong, professional quality solo instrument library to pair with the piano in Logic Pro (and if awarded, the professional quality guitar library I am applying for funds to purchase). I have selected the Swam Solo Instrument Library Bundle which includes solo woodwinds, strings, and brass. This comprehensive, professional quality library will give me the ability to introduce any additional instruments I may want to bring into my composition, while creating a professional, high quality piece. Professor Reid and I have briefly discussed expanding beyond the guitar and piano and having all of the instruments in a solo library will allow for broad creative expression. As I have not started the composition yet, I welcome the opportunity to explore and expand with this project. Without a comprehensive solo library I will be limited to guitar and piano because

currently, I only have a professional quality piano library. To successfully pair my high quality piano, I need equally professional quality solo instruments and guitar. I will use the Swam Solo Instrument and Ample Guitar libraries for smaller scale chamber works such as my distinguished major project. I currently have two completed compositions that I would use the Swam Solo Instrument Library to enhance. Professor Burtner recommended that I purchase a Zoom Field recorder as part of this proposal. The Zoom F3 will allow me to incorporate recorded sounds into my composition, adding another element of depth to my work. The technology in this proposal will allow me to add to my portfolio, expand my skills as a composer, and produce professional quality music for years to come. All of which will support my goals of composing for video games and applying for a Masters Program in screen scoring.

I am thrilled to be working on a distinguished major project with Professor Burtner and Professor Reid and welcome the opportunity to learn as much as I can throughout this process which will include composing a thoughtful and high quality piece. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that the Miller Arts Scholar Program has afforded me and thank the committee in advance for their consideration.

### **Participation in the Arts**

I am actively engaged in the Arts here at UVA in several ways. Within the UVA community, I am an arranger for the Radio Music Society. Last semester, I also scored my first video game composition as a composer in the Student Game Developers. I participated in the Miller Arts Seminar last semester and this semester. I was awarded a Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. I am also a UVA Student Arts Fund 2023 Recipient. I attend as many UVA Arts and Miller Arts Scholar events as my schedule allows. My coursework so far has included Music Theory I & II, Orchestration I & II, Symphonic Listening, Composing Mixtapes, Technosonics: Digital Music & Sound Art Composition, Intro to Music and Computers, Intro to Film Scoring, and Black Music Composing and Performance Ensemble. I am currently taking Music and Discourse and Learn to Groove. In Orchestration I, I composed a piece for string quartet, wind quintet, and symphony orchestra in addition to a litany of smaller composition exercises for solo string and wind instruments. In Music Theory I and II, I composed a sonata for piano among other smaller composition exercises. In Intro to Music and Computers and Technosonics I produced multiple small pieces using recorded audio samples. Last semester in Black Music Composing and Performance Ensemble I wrote two pieces as assignments. Throughout my coursework at UVA and personal composing, outside of course requirements, I have composed more than 25 pieces, over a dozen of which are solely for the piano.

Last summer I attended a one month, 6 credit film scoring program led by the Film Scoring Academy of Europe. During the program I focused on core disciplines of composition and musicianship. This included learning the fundamentals of how to score music for film. As part of the program, I composed four pieces of music which were recorded by the European Recording

Orchestra. My four compositions included one for solo piano where I scored an emotion, another for seven-piece strings and winds, where I scored a season, another for 21-piece strings, piano, and harp, where I scored a love theme, and finally a 38-piece symphony orchestra piece, where I scored a scene. I also scored an additional (unrecorded) piece for the opening credits of a film.

### **Portfolio Examples:**

“[Drowned Words](#)” is a piece I wrote as an assignment for the Black Music Composing and Performance Ensemble class. To complete the assignment, I had to write a piece that featured a call and response (which can be heard between the piano and woodwinds, most clearly at the beginning). This idea quickly spun into a layered, contrapuntal composition where more instruments are added over time.

“[Petals](#)” is a piece I was compelled to write in the middle of March. Its harmonic progression was heavily inspired by the modal mixture often found in Japanese video game soundtracks. The initial melody was constructed from a two chord vamp between D Major (I) and the borrowed C-sharp minor (vii) from the Lydian mode. Chords from other modes appear later on. I chose the name petals because I wanted an ambiguous name that could be interpreted in many ways, and because I was composing the piece around the time of the spring equinox.

### **Timeline:**

- April 2024 - Enroll in MUSI 4581 Composition I and MUSI 4993 Independent Study for Fall 2024
- May 2024 - Purchase Ample Guitar Library, Swam Solo Instrument Library, and Zoom F3 recorder
- Late May - Summer 2024 - Familiarize myself with the libraries and recorder and begin using them
- Fall 2024 - Study composition techniques for classical guitar
- Meet with Professor Burtner on an ongoing basis in MUS 4993 Independent Study
- Late Fall 2024 - Start composition
- Meet with Professor Reid throughout MUSI 4581
- November 2024 - Enroll in MUSI 4582 Composition II and MUSI 4993 Independent Study for Spring 2025
- December 2024 - Identify musicians for April recital
- January 2025 - Start MUSI 4582 Composition II and MUSI 4993 Independent Study; meet with Professors Burtner and Reid to assess progress, receive feedback on composition
- February 2025 - Finalize composition, prepare for April recital
- March 2025 - Work with musicians, submit written outcome/progress statement

- April 2025 - Annual Awards Outcome event (recital)

**Budget:**

Item	Cost	Total
Ample Guitar Library <a href="https://www.amplesound.net/en/purchase.asp">https://www.amplesound.net/en/purchase.asp</a>	\$1899 + 6% DC Sales Tax \$113.94	\$2,012.94
Swam Solo Instrument Library Bundle <a href="https://audiomodeling.com/swam-engine/swam-all-in-bundle/">https://audiomodeling.com/swam-engine/swam-all-in-bundle/</a>	Normally \$1400 [ <a href="#">50% education discount</a> \$700] + 6% DC Sales Tax \$42.00	\$742
Zoom Field Recorder <a href="https://zoomcorp.com/en/us/field-recorders/field-recorders/f3/">https://zoomcorp.com/en/us/field-recorders/field-recorders/f3/</a>	\$279.99 + 6% DC Sales Tax \$16.80	\$296.79
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3051.73</b> (\$51.73 paid out of pocket)