

Hunter Colson
Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant Proposal
Spring 2024

External Hard Drive and Production Tools

Project Summary:

As an emerging composer, I have a large collection of compositions which include completed compositions, sketches, and random works in progress. Last semester in Black Music Composing and Performance Ensemble, I wrote two compositions as assignments. I also scored my first video game composition as a composer in the Student Game Developers, adding to the more than 25 compositions I have completed since starting at UVA. I recently applied for the Distinguished Major Program (DMP) in Music. If accepted, my participation in the DMP will involve studying classical composition and the actual composition will take place in Professor Reid's MUSI 4581 Composition I in the fall and MUSI 4582 Composition II in the spring. I will also enroll in MUSI 4993 Independent Study each semester with my main advisor, Professor Burtner. I will use the DMP to study how to write idiomatically for classical guitar and write a classical inspired multi-movement piece for guitar and piano.

I am applying for a minigrant to fund an external hard drive to store my growing portfolio of compositions. As I always have several compositions in progress, whether in connection with coursework or otherwise, I am increasingly running out of space. Hard drive storage is also taken up with the multiple versions of each composition that I typically keep as well as the arrangements I create for the Radio Music Society. Last semester I used my Miller Arts Scholar Minigrant to purchase Keyscape and NotePerformer. I used Keyscape to remix seven piano compositions and NotePerformer to remix six orchestrated compositions. These files took up a portion of my hard drive storage. If accepted for the DMP, my participation will also increase the compositions I am working on and storing. Storing and running programs such as Dorico, Keyscape, NotePerformer, and MuseScore, require significant amounts of storage. When storage is limited, it affects the speed with which these programs are able to run, resulting in a much slower composition process. Upgrading my storage with a 4TB external unit will alleviate storage shortages and provide adequate storage for my new compositions for years to come, while allowing my laptop to run at maximum speed. I have identified SanDisk 4TB Extreme PRO Portable SSD because it works particularly well with Mac computers. To select this equipment I researched recommended storage for Mac computers and consulted with friends and family who are particularly tech savvy and knowledgeable about Macs.

I am also applying for funds to purchase two items for my composition and production work. First, I would like to purchase a pedal to be used with my KeyLab Essential 61 mk3 MIDI. A

pedal will allow me more options to experiment with when composing my music with my MIDI keyboard. I selected the Roland DP-10 because it has good ratings and comes highly recommended, particularly for the KeyLab keyboard that I have. Second, I would like to purchase an audio interface, which is used to mix music and will allow me to introduce synths and other effects into my compositions. In conjunction with the DMP, the audio interface will allow me to record guitar or other instruments directly into my computer. NI Komplete Audio 2 is the audio interface recommended by the USC Screen Scoring Masters Program I hope to apply to.

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.

Timeline:

Late March/Early April 2024

- Buy Hard Drive, Pedal, and Audio Interface
- Backup compositions and organize pieces on new hard drive
- Use pedal and audio interface

Budget:

Item	Cost
SanDisk	\$319.99
Roland DP-10 Real-Feel Pedal with Non-Slip Rubber Plate	\$54.99
NI Komplete Audio 2	\$99
TOTAL COST	\$473.98