

**Elie Bashkow**  
**Class of 2023**  
**Arts Award Proposal Spring 2021**

**Proposal**

I am proposing recording a four song EP in studio over the summer and into the fall. I would like to take a quality over quantity approach with this project, trying to craft each song with the utmost care and cutting no corners to make sure it is truly the best sounding work I can create.

**Project Overview**

I have been taking music seriously for over three years now, playing shows throughout Virginia and doing some session playing, but over the pandemic, I feel as though I developed a new level of drive, intention, and ability with my art. I devoted and invested more of myself into making music than ever before, using almost all of my free time to work on production, songwriting, musicianship, etc. Since December, I have written, recorded, and mixed one song of my own which will be out in early April, produced songs for other artists, and worked as a sound designer, session instrumentalist, co-writer, and mix engineer on a number of other projects. As I continue to grow as an artist, I know that the best next step for me in my journey is to record a longer project of my own. To deliver the quality of work that I will be satisfied with, I would like to do this record the right way: in a professional studio, with great equipment, and great musicians. I will see this through from start to finish, making sure I do everything I possibly can to get the best sounding record and to learn as much as possible about every aspect of the process. The knowledge I gain from doing this project will be invaluable for me as a musician, producer, composer, and engineer as I strive to become a well-rounded artist.

**Process**

Making a good record is often a long and difficult process. The most important part of a good project is obviously good material. I have already started work on some material that I might use but I would like to spend a good amount of time in the late spring and early summer writing and composing more to ensure that I have a project that feels like a complete, cohesive project which can really stand on its own.

The next step will be to line up all of the logistical details of the recording process. I would like to record at White Star Sound, a wonderful studio outside of Charlottesville, with Orion Faruque working as in-house engineer. I think White Star has a unique and wonderful sound that will suit my musical style very well and I know from past experience that Orion is an amazing engineer whom I can really trust and communicate with. I don't yet know exactly what

I will need in terms of gear or session musicians because the list of songs is not yet fixed, but I do have existing connections to everything that I can foresee myself needing.

White Star rents for 24-hour slots and has sleeping space on the property. To get the highest quality recordings, I think an estimated two tracks in a 10-hour day including setup time would be ideal. My hope and expectation is that we will walk in with fully formed compositions with arrangements and sonics already worked out and walk out with complete songs, already sounding great and ready to be mixed.

Once tracking is complete, I will begin mixing the album. This stage should take me approximately one month depending on how things go in the recording phase. I have a fair amount of experience mixing and I am confident and can do a good job, especially if the material is well recorded. After the songs are mixed, the next step before release to the public is mastering, where the EP is polished and made ready for the world. I plan to pay Greg Rierson of Rare Form Mastering to make sure each track is sounding its best. I think that if there is any step that is worth outsourcing, it is mastering because that gives the chance for the songs to get heard and touched by someone with a more objective perspective and experienced ear. The final step will be promotion and distribution, which I have had some experience navigating. I will invest money in making sure the project reaches as many people as possible, something which is increasingly important in the contemporary music climate. I also plan to hold an album release show in the Charlottesville community to present the work and will continue to perform the material live throughout the following months (assuming it is a safe enough world to do so in).

I am so excited to have the privilege of working with Ted Coffey as my faculty advisor on this project. I have taken two consecutive semesters of music classes with Professor Coffey and have learned so much from him about the technical elements of recording and producing as well as the creative and artistic aspects. I know that having his input will greatly enrich my learning throughout this process.

At every stage I will be keeping a journal of my experience, enabling me to reflect back on what I have learned and be prepared to present at the Annual Arts Outcome event in April 2022. I think this Grant offers me such an invaluable opportunity to grow as an artist and human being and to create something that I am really truly proud of.

### Timeline

Time	Goal
Late Spring/Early Summer	Songwriting, composition, and arrangement. Plan out song-related specifics (musicians, recording equipment, etc.)

Late Summer	Rehearsals with session musicians, 2 days of recording sessions at White Star Sound, Overdubs as necessary
Early Fall	Mixing by me, Mastering by Rare Form Mastering, Pre-release promotion, organization, etc.
Late Fall	Project Release, Post-Release Promotion, Live performance of EP at release show
Winter/Spring	More shows with EP materials, Follow up, Project outcome report

**Budget**

Two full days at White Star Sound Recording Studio including engineer: \$1200  
 Session musicians (estimated with 3 musicians/song at 80/song for 4 songs): \$960  
 Food costs in studio for 2 days: \$150  
 Mastering with Rare Form Mastering: \$320  
 Release Promotion and Marketing: \$1000  
 Distribution through DistroKid and registration with ASCAP: \$150

Total: \$3,780

\*I estimate that this number could fluctuate by +/- \$800

**Participation in the Arts at UVA**

I have been quite involved with the arts at UVA in my time years here, although the fact that I have only had a semester and a half of non-zoom college has definitely had a negative impact on my ability to truly engage to the fullest extent. I declared a music major in my first semester and have taken over a dozen music and art related classes already. I have been playing with the klezmer ensemble since 10<sup>th</sup> grade including for three semesters of college (I recording an album for them last fall) and I have played with the bluegrass band for three semesters as well, and Matthew Burtner’s Mobile Interactive Computer Ensemble (MICE) for one semester. This fall, my guitar cover of “Let It Be” by the Beatles was used by President Ryan to commence his second season of the Arts on the Hill series. Within Miller Arts, I have completed CASS 1010 and am currently enrolled in CASS 1011. I have also collaborated with other Miller Arts scholars on artistic projects both formally and informally.