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Class of 2021
Miller Arts Scholars

Music Resource Fund Outcome Report

I am incredibly grateful to the Miller Arts Scholars program for generously funding a carbon fiber bow, a recording microphone, a professional music stand, new higher-quality rosin, a stand light, and sheet music. I am able to use these materials both in my free playing time and in my studies of chamber and solo music through practicing, rehearsing, and performing. Having received these materials, I am finding more opportunities to practice, rehearse, and perform, despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual coachings and lessons have become the norm over the past 8 months. While it is wonderful to still be able to meet with teachers through Zoom and Skype, the audio quality of computer microphones leaves plenty to be desired. Applying the specialized recording microphone has allowed for teachers on the other end of these virtual lessons to hear a more accurate representation of my sound, in turn making lessons and coachings with my trio more productive.

Prior to the change in season and drop in temperature, I was able to utilize the professional music stand and stand light to practice and perform outdoors without having music fly off my stand from the wind or the music be too dark to read. I took a trip to the Rotunda steps with several of my peers in the cello studio of Professor Adam Carter, where we performed movements from J.S. Bach's Six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello while the sun was setting, hoping to provide joy and creativity for those around the Lawn.

While I intended to use the CodaBow carbon fiber bow to practice outside, I have not been able to get the bow haired due to COVID-19. I bring my cello and bow to Potter Violins, where I purchased my instrument, but they have had limited appointment openings for bow re-hairs due to the pandemic. I have made an appointment for mid-January to get the carbon fiber bow haired and afterwards will be able to use the new bow for outdoor practicing.

I truly cannot thank the Miller Arts Scholars program enough for providing this generous funding to support my endeavors as a young musician. The pandemic has hit musicians especially hard, with orchestras being unable to rehearse and live performances largely on hold, but this funding has already had an immeasurable impact on my musical experience at the University of Virginia. These music resources allow me to achieve my goals, from the practice room to service through music to performances in Old Cabell Hall.

“Gratitude is the music of the heart, when its chords are swept by the breeze of kindness.”