

Brent Davis
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Class of 2021
Miller Arts Scholars

Strings and Bow Enhancement Fund

The cello is like oxygen for me. I spend hours every week in the practice rooms, from collaborating with students and faculty to working on solo repertoire, with much of this time devoted to upcoming performances. I am requesting a minigrant to fund a professional set of strings, the upgrade of the metal winding on my bow, and a professional bow re-hair for my cello to be used in my studies through practicing, rehearsing, and performing.

As a Music Major in the Performance Concentration here at UVA, I rehearse and perform regularly in three chamber ensembles, the Charlottesville Symphony, and cello studio recitals. I absolutely love playing the cello and have been devoted to practicing, rehearsing, and performing throughout my time at UVA. Professor Adam Carter, with whom I study in private lessons and chamber music, has been urging me to upgrade these aspects of my cello and bow for the past two years now to match my talent and dedication to playing the cello.

I will be traveling to Hungary for a performance with one of the aforementioned chamber ensembles, and shortly after I will be auditioning for a Distinguished Major Program Recital. Next school year, I will be performing in a recital in Old Cabell Hall with my piano trio (piano, violin, and cello), Trio Sobrenna. These performances and auditions are so important to me and much of the academic research is based on stylistic characteristics in music, which make the interpretation and production of music from different periods and places such a unique challenge.

With the funding of this equipment, I will be able to further my interpretation of the music I perform and make more compelling music on stage. Additionally, I will be able to play a cello with a quality of strings that I have not yet experienced. Larsen and Pirazzi strings are used by some of the best cellists in the world and are common for college cellists. The bow upgrades and new professional strings allow for better tone, resonance, and projection, each of which are vital to playing the cello and making an impact through music. I believe that the outcome of a new set of high-quality cello strings and a fresh bow re-hair will better my performances and auditions in the near future and help me achieve my goals as a cellist.

My outcome statement will include a written portion detailing my experience of playing on such high-quality, fresh strings and a re-haired bow, as well as audio recordings of excerpts from pieces I have performed during the projected schedule that illustrate the difference in sound quality.

Thank you so much for your time and thoughtful consideration and I would greatly appreciate any aid in the funding of this project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Exhibit 1: Proposal Schedule

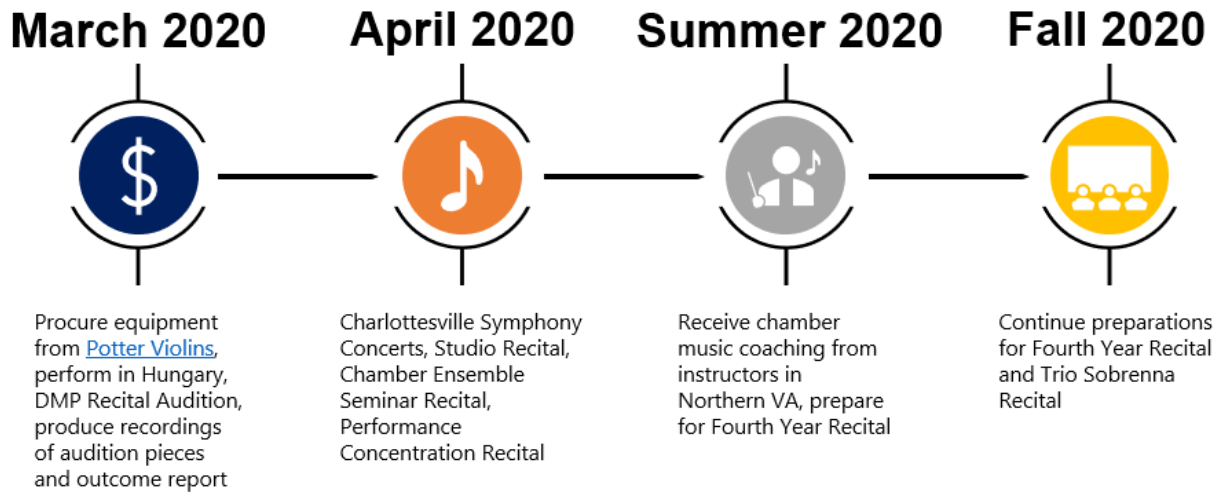


Exhibit 2: Proposal Budget

Item	Price*	Quantity	Total
Larsen Soloist A String	\$56.50	1	\$56.50
Larsen Soloist D String	\$63.75	1	\$63.75
Evah Pirazzi "Gold" G String	\$96.65	1	\$96.65
Evah Pirazzi "Gold" C String	\$116.72	1	\$116.72
Bow Winding Upgrade	\$60.00	1	\$60.00
Bow Re-hair	\$75.00	1	\$75.00
Total			\$468.62

* These prices are derived from Potter Violins, the string shop where I purchased my cello and return to for maintenance and equipment

Exhibit 3: The bow hair discoloration indicates that a re-hair is necessary

