

Britney Cheung
Class of 2023
Miller Arts Scholars

Funding for Violin and Viola Equipment

In my past three years at UVA, chamber music has been the most fulfilling part of my college life. Not only has it helped me improve technically as a violinist, I have also learned to listen better, communicate abstract ideas, and collaborate with people of varying musical styles. The UVA Chamber Music Ensemble has given me the opportunity to grow as an individual and as a team player, and I hope to keep playing in such ensembles for the rest of my life. To continue in my serious engagement in the music department, I am requesting a Miller Arts minigrant to fund purchases for various pieces of equipment.

Starting from this year, I have taken up two chamber groups each semester – a string quartet in which I play violin, and another group where I play viola. My string quartet ensemble plans on giving a fourth-year recital, and we are currently in the process of learning repertoire for that event. Having performed the Mozart “Prussian” Quartet No. 22 in the fall, we decided to choose a modern piece this semester for stylistic contrast. We are now preparing Ginastera’s String Quartet No.1, which we will perform in April as part of the Chamber Music Ensemble recital. While we were able to obtain the piece’s full score from the UVA library, there were no individual parts and the score was scanned in such a way that made it impossible to cut and paste the music. As such, I am asking for funding to purchase our parts online from the music store Fick’s Music.

I began playing the viola in chamber ensembles last semester, and my current group is planning to perform the Faure Piano Quartet No. 1. I am using a school viola, and because the amount of people that have used and adjusted the instrument, it is in need of some repair. Professor Ayn Balija kindly replaced the bow hair for me last month, but I am hoping to purchase a new set of strings and a shoulder rest. It has been more than a year since the strings on the viola has changed; the sound it now produces is a little dull, and tuning on the instrument has been difficult because of the old strings’ wavering pitches. In the piece that my chamber group is playing, there are a lot of parts where the violin, viola, and cello play in unison. It is imperative that we tune our instruments to exactly corresponding pitches so that we can proceed with good intonation.

I am also requesting funding to buy a new shoulder rest for the school viola. The side grips on the current one is loose, and often loses its grip on the instrument while I am playing. The bottom foam part has also completely fallen off from the plastic board and I have to hold the two pieces together with a hair tie. Purchasing a new shoulder rest would make playing on the viola much easier, and I would be able to focus much more on my technique and on blending with other members of my group during rehearsals and performances.

Any aid in purchasing this equipment would be greatly beneficial to my musical endeavors on violin and viola, and my outcome statement will document such improvements. Please reach out if there are any questions, and thank you for taking the time to consider my proposal.

Proposed Budget

Item	Cost	Link to products
Ginastera String Quartet No.1 – individual parts	\$50	https://www.ficksmusic.com/products/ginastera-string-quartet-no-1-op-20-boosey?gclid=Cj0KCQiA64GRBhCZARIsAHOLrILi4cfecryN6jjUIJ-X3ezzgHWh-uMEwC4yrs5-ekx4Kgn6S6nAIVUaArGtEALw_wcB
Pirastro Evah Pirazzi Gold Viola String Set	\$141.76	https://www.sharmusic.com/Strings/Viola-Strings/Pirastro-Evah-Pirazzi-Gold-Viola-String-Set.axd
Bonmusica Viola Shoulder Rest	\$52.99	https://www.amazon.com/Bonmusica-15-5-Viola-Shoulder-Rest/dp/B000CRLTYW
Total	\$244.75	

Photos of Viola

i. Shoulder Rest



ii. Viola

