

Miller Arts Scholar Rising Third Year Award Application  
Luc Cianfarani

Attending the 2016 Washington International Piano Festival

When I graduated high school I did not know what I wanted to study or what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I decided to take that summer to explore my interests and think seriously about what I would study. After a few months it became clear that I wanted to study music. Playing the piano was something that I had always had been good at and was something I was passionate about. Additionally, I was drawn to studying piano because it seemed as if the classical music world was a respite from the real one, free from bureaucracies and profit-driven businessmen. While I am happy with my decision to pursue music, the past two years have taught me that my idyllic vision of the classical music world does not exist. Classical music is an industry. In order to progress in this competitive industry I need to start making connections and entering competitions that will allow me to advance my career. I believe that receiving a \$1500 arts award to attend the Washington International Piano Festival will not only allow me to grow as a musician, but also enable me to meet world renowned pianists and compete against my peers from all over the world.

The greatest asset that the festival can offer me is access to its' distinguished faculty. The faculty is comprised of pianists from all over the world including, but not limited to, the United States, Russia, China, and Spain. It includes the winners and adjudicators of major international competitions, and distinguished professors of piano – including the chairs of the piano departments at both the Peabody Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music. As a participant in the festival I will have 4 private lessons and access to masterclasses, concerts, and lectures given by the faculty. The ability to closely interact with these teachers will undoubtedly make me a better pianist, but it will also let me receive guidance and advice from professionals who have successfully navigated the classical music industry.

Participating in the festival also allows me to compete in the 2016 Catholic University of America Piano Competition. Winners of this competition are awarded a spot in the Gala Concert at the end of the festival and the first prize winner is invited to give a concert at the 2016-2017 Washington International Piano Series. Additionally, competitors will be chosen to perform at Kennedy Center later in the festival, a truly unique and rare opportunity. Regardless of the results of the competition, this will be an invaluable experience. The opportunity to perform under a high pressure situation and practice for a competition will prepare me for future auditions.

In order to present what I learned in the spring of 2017, I will take pictures and notes of my day to day experiences. These will be displayed in a slideshow in the spring and will let the community have a visual representation of what I did at the festival. I will also try to have any of my performances recorded or videotaped so that I can include them in my slideshow. Additionally, I will record myself playing in the second semester of my third year to show the progress I have made since having attended the festival.

**Timeline:**

July 23 → Depart for Washington D.C.

July 24 → Festival Begins

July 26 → Catholic University of America Piano Competition

August 1 → Festival Ends, depart Washington D.C

Fall 2016 → Continue piano studies in McIntyre Department of Music

Spring 2017 → Record piece for presentation

**Budget:**

Program Tuition → \$1000

Housing at a hostel near the festival (\$35/day x 10 days) → \$350

Meals (\$12/day x 10 days) → \$120

Student Metro pass → \$30

Total: \$1500

**Budget Details:**

I did not include transportation to and from Washington D.C. but I have a significant amount of Amtrak points so a round trip ticket will be either significantly reduced or free.