

Attending the Washington International Piano Festival

Project Outcome Report

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Class of 2018

Last summer, funding from the Miller Arts Scholar program allowed me the opportunity to attend the Washington International Piano Festival. WIPF is an annual festival that brings together piano teachers and students from all over the world to Washington D.C. for ten days. The festival consists of four private lessons, performance opportunities, masterclasses, and ample practice time. I found this experience to be musically stimulating and inspiring. I was able to take full advantage of these opportunities and I have been able to apply the lessons I learned at the festival to my playing. My experience this summer left me better equipped to fulfill my goal of becoming a professional musician.

My time in D.C. put me in close contact with many great pianists. I studied with pianists that have performed all over the world and have created influential recordings. My teachers at the festival had served on the juries of important competitions and gave me valuable advice on playing in competitions. In our lessons, my teachers and I focused on sound production. We worked on creating rich, full sounds when playing soft. This is something I had worked on extensively in the months leading up to the festival. I made a point to focus on creating beautiful soft sounds, and by the end of the festival I had improved on this skill. The teachers I studied from hailed from Russia, China, South Korea and Spain. This gave me multiple different cultural perspectives on my playing which was an enriching experience. Seeing how teachers from different cultures explain similar topics gave me new ways to think about my playing.

Another valuable experience from the festival was the opportunity I had to play at the Kennedy Center. I was able to play in a concert at the Kennedy Center after successfully passing an audition. I was selected to play the Praeludium from Hindemith's *Ludus Tonalis*. After learning of my acceptance into the concert, I was given three days to polish the piece and prepare it for performance. I played on the Millennium Stage in a free concert for more than 500 people on a Friday afternoon. It was an intimidating experience, but ultimately a rewarding one. The performance went very well and it helped me build my confidence in regards to performance. A video of me playing at the Kennedy Center can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0xvLMhqqYs> (performance begins at 39:30). The video of my performance was also instructive. Being able to re-watch my stage mannerisms was helpful in seeing how audiences experience my performances. Studying this video helped me act more natural on stage.

With the instruction and performance experience I gained at the festival I was able to accomplish many goals I set for the year. A month after the festival I auditioned for, and was accepted into, the performance concentration at UVA. This program allows me to frequently perform in Old Cabell Hall and funds a full length, publicized recital my fourth year. I was able to test run my audition program at the festival and this experience made my performance concentration audition less intimidating. In addition to being accepted into the performance concentration, I

was selected to play in many masterclasses this year. In the past few months alone, I have played for Steven Drury from The New England Conservatory, Charles Abramovic from Temple University, and David Breitman from Oberlin College. My time at the Washington International Piano Festival put me in a good position to do well in these masterclasses and impress the visiting artists.

My time in D.C. this summer was enriching and musically stimulating. I was able to perform at one of the country's most prestigious performance venues, study from world class pianists, and have 10 days to devote to my craft. I am glad that I attended and the lessons I learned there helped me in accomplishing the goals I set for this academic year. Without funding from the Miller Arts Scholars program, I would have never been able to have this experience. Thank you to all of the supporters of the Miller Arts Scholars program, with a special thanks to Sandy and Vinie Miller and Evie and Stephen Colbert.