

**Project Title:** Experimental Music Project (The Cello and Beyond)

I would like to first thank the J. Sanford Miller family and the Miller Arts Scholars program for allowing me to explore a new area of music that would have never been possible without this financial support. The opportunity to explore electronic music with a range of equipment has allowed this musical project to significantly shape my time as a musician at UVa. I have always wanted to explore the full capacity of the cello, and utilizing both this the third-year award and the mini-grant has allowed me to create new music that I never knew was possible. This report will be structured by explaining how each piece of equipment from the mini grant has allowed me to expand my experimental cello project and will follow with a summary.

**Ableton Standard Software:** This music production software has been both the most difficult and the most rewarding of my project. The software is incredibly difficult to use, but many YouTube tutorials and hours spent learning all of its features have allowed me to start making incredible music. I had never worked with music production software before, so this learning experience was quite intense. I hope to take a music production class at UVa during my 4<sup>th</sup> year.

**Ableton Push 2:** The only word to describe this piece of equipment is WOW. The Push 2 allows me to fully utilize the Ableton Software, giving me a capacity to produce music in a simple and easy workflow. The Push 2 is also a very complicated piece of equipment, and I continue to learn more features every time I use it; but, I have become quite adept at creating different tracks, setting up different beats, and fully utilizing the key pads. I'm still working to become better at looping

**Scarlett Audio Interface and Cello Pickup:** These two items have allowed me to combine my cello playing with the electronic production equipment. The audio interface is great, and has allowed for seamless combination of my cello into the Ableton software. The cello pickup is also incredibly functional, and I've had quite a bit of fun plugging it into my guitar amp to make for some awesome sounds.

Overall, each of these items allowed me to create multiple pieces. The piece linked below was special to me because it felt both meditative and reflective. It is a cello that has been highly distorted and overdubbed with a synth filter from Ableton. The music is meant to evoke a sense of piece and calm while also retaining some tension throughout. I hope you enjoy.

Once again, thank you for the support. I cannot even begin to explain how important these purchases have been to my development as a producer, a cellist, and a musician. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing where this project takes me in the future.

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