

Arts Award (Update) Report

Chris Fox

My Arts Award project is currently in progress and will be completed on April 1st when I give my Distinguished Major recital in Old Cabell Hall. A full outcome report will be available afterwards, but this is a brief update on the project.

My project was intended to prepare me for my fourth-year DMP recital in terms of music rehearsal, marketing, and instrument repairs. Thus far, I am on track with my budget and most of the large expenses, including instrument repairs, have been covered. The only significant remaining expense is pianist expenses.

In terms of music preparation, I put my Arts Award toward cello lessons while I was working in New York City this summer. I had two different teachers during the summer, both of whom were very helpful. One was more focused on the technical aspects of playing, while the other helped me with my musicality and expressiveness. The lessons were certainly expensive, but really helped me stay on top of my recital music prior to the school year beginning. I also took a few lessons back in Virginia with my high school private teachers at the end of summer, as well as during winter and spring break.

In addition to music preparation, I visited Jonathan Vacanti on three occasions this semester to make improvements to my cello. He closed a large open seam that was overhanging the rib of the instrument, adjusted nut and bridge height, planed my fingerboard, cleaned my instrument, changed my strings, and rehaired my bow. He also managed to get rid of an unexpected buzzing sound that developed. It was a stressful process, but my cello is now in recital-ready shape.

My recital preparation also involved marketing efforts, including photography and poster creation. I had two photoshoots, one with Khuyen Dinh and another with Connor Noble, a fellow Arts Scholar. I am currently in the middle of my marketing efforts, but will provide a full update in the future.

I will also provide a full report of how the recital goes and a final account of my budget.