

## **Project Title: Continued Studio Improvement**

### **Project Description:**

Producing is a very fulfilling creative outlet for me, and I'm always looking for ways I can make my projects sound higher quality and more professional, as well as to improve my workflow. As a college student with a lot of different obligations, I find myself on the move often. This makes portability of my equipment very important, since I more often than not am working on projects outside of my studio space. Much of my current equipment fulfills this requirement, but one exception is my keyboard, which is too large to reasonably bring around with me on a regular basis. Having a smaller keyboard would greatly increase my beyond-studio work capability. Additionally, when I decide to work in my studio space, I wish to maximize the tonal quality and richness of all of my instruments. One way to do this for my viola is to replace the strings, which can enhance the warmth and clarity of the instrument. This is typically done every 6-8 months, which means my instrument is long overdue for a string replacement, since my last one was around a year ago. Also, I've often wanted to create my own electric bass tracks on particular songs where synthesized bass doesn't fit my vision. However, the native bass guitar MIDI's on Logic Pro aren't great quality, and the digital artifacts present in the sound make it difficult for recordings to sound human and dynamic. Purchasing an electric bass would both solve this and expand the avenues I could explore creatively in my music production, particularly as I continue to work on my Distinguished Major Project.

### **Objectives:**

The goal of this proposal is to increase the portability of my producing setup, improve the sound quality of my existing instruments, and to add new instruments to my setup to enhance the creative potential of the space. This will be accomplished by achieving these goals:

- Purchasing a small MIDI keyboard for producing effectively on the go.
- Purchasing a new set of viola strings to enhance the tonal quality of my instrument in recordings.
- Purchasing an electric bass guitar to allow for creation of more organic, lively bass tracks in my music.

### **Limitations:**

Though I have experience buying and playing electric guitars, I have not bought an electric bass before. In the past, I've had the best luck going to music stores which sell guitars, testing them prior to buying them. After speaking with bass players, it seems like this is also the best approach for bass guitars. This unfortunately means that though I've listed a particular recommended bass in my budget, I won't know how much I will actually spend until I test out instruments in store (including the one listed in the budget) and determine which one I like the most. If it ends up being above the price I intended, I will cover the excess.

### **Statement of Need:**

To complete this project, I will need to purchase a portable MIDI keyboard, new viola strings, and an electric bass. These are necessary for the following reasons:

- A smaller, portable keyboard will greatly increase the number of places I can work and improve my workflow when I am away from my studio.
- New strings will give my viola richer tonal quality for live performance and studio recording.
- A electric bass played by a human will naturally have a greater level of musicality and personality compared to electric bass played on a MIDI keyboard, increasing the quality of songs which I envision it in.
- Introducing a new instrument to my studio will open up new directions I can travel creatively, providing inspiration for altering old tracks and creating new ones.
- All of these points will make my DMP easier to work on, higher quality in sound, and/or more creatively fulfilling.

### **Schedule for Completion:**

Oct 10-17 - Receive funding

Oct 19 - Place order for MIDI keyboard, viola strings

Oct 21-23 - Visit Music & Arts in Charlottesville and test basses, purchasing the one I like the most

Nov-Dec - Create new music tracks with my improved instruments for my DMP

### **Budget:**

Item	Quantity	Price	Description
Novation Launchkey Mini MK3 25-key Keyboard Controller	1	\$99.99	Portable MIDI controller
Pirastro Evan Pirazzi Viola C String	1	~\$35 (string prices fluctuate frequently online)	Tungsten silver-wound viola C string, synthetic multifilament core
Pirastro Evan Pirazzi Viola G String	1	~\$35	Silver-wound viola G string, synthetic multifilament core
Pirastro Evan Pirazzi Viola D String	1	~\$35	Silver-wound viola D string, synthetic multifilament core
Jagar Viola A string	1	~\$15	Flexible steel core viola A string
Sterling By Music Man StingRay RAY4 Bass Guitar	1	\$349.99	4-string electric bass guitar
<b>Total (Tax not included)</b>	N/A	<b>\$569.98*</b>	

*\*This is over the \$500 limit for this mini-grant, therefore I will be covering any costs above \$500 with my own money.*