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Class of 2023
Miller Arts Scholars

Enhancing the Viola Sound

Project Description:

Viola has been a constant part of my life since I was in elementary school. Throughout middle school and high school, I played on several instruments, outgrowing the sound and size of the small 14-inch I began with, switching to a 15.5-inch that carried me through middle school, and gradually ending on my current 16-inch viola I purchased my sophomore year of high school. My current viola is an extremely reliable and rich sounding instrument, capable of keeping up with the advanced sound I constantly strive to achieve at the college-level caliber and as a music major. Unlike my actual instrument, however, I have been using the same bow since middle school. Since matriculating at UVA, I have sought to upgrade to a new bow to match the level and quality of my instrument in order to continue improving upon my sound and tonal quality.

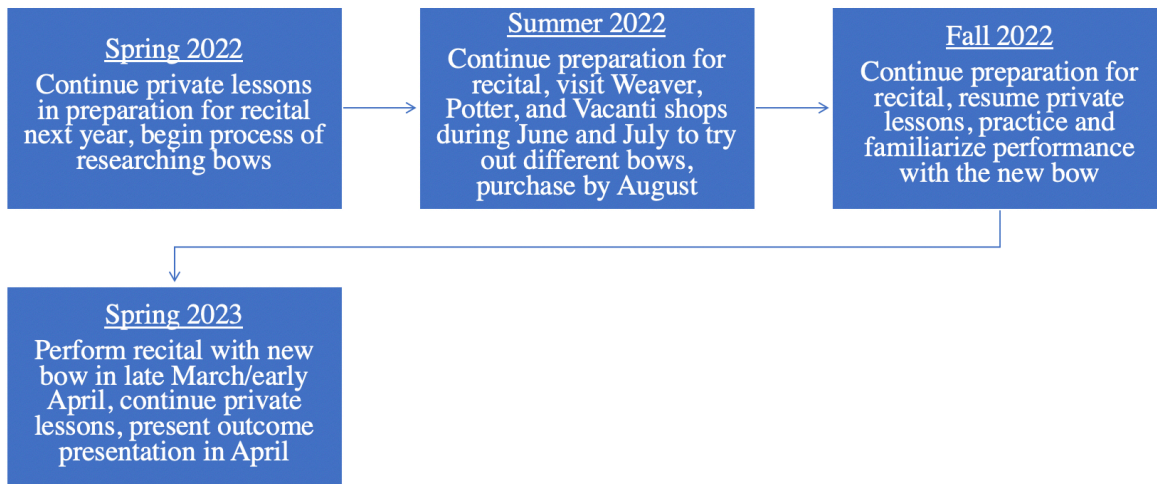
Therefore, I am requesting Miller Arts Award funding for purchasing a new bow. I will still keep my current bow for backup purposes but would like to purchase a higher quality bow to become my default. While it has adequately carried me through high school, buying a new bow would greatly benefit me in improving my musical skills, most notably my sound and tone quality. It is extremely important to properly match a bow with an instrument as all bows respond differently to the instrument and can produce varying sounds. The bow can allow for easier execution of certain techniques, greatly enhance the sound of an instrument, and can even be a deciding factor for the overall sound and tone of one's playing. If a bow is not intentionally matched with an instrument, it can also be a limiting factor that impedes upon one's performance. Purchasing this new bow would help me develop my best performance for my fourth year Performance Concentration recital in the spring of 2023. With a new bow before fourth year, I will be able to practice with it well before my recital, becoming familiarized and consistently pushing myself to create the best sound with it.

My faculty member mentor will be Professor Daniel Sender, an associate professor in the McIntire Department of Music performance faculty and concertmaster of the Charlottesville Symphony. I began studying with Professor Sender this semester and he is currently the chamber coach for my string quintet. He has significantly helped me improve both my technical and musical skills on viola and has pushed me to explore new perspectives in musical performance. His insight and advice have guided me through the process of selecting repertoire for my recital, understanding how to practice more effectively, and he has led me to new ways of approaching music altogether.

This summer, I intend on testing out various bows at local violin shops in the DMV area, including Potter Violins and The Violin House of Weaver, and I would also like to explore Vacanti Violins in Charlottesville. All of these shops have assisted me in finding instruments, necessary accessories, and general advising in my musical endeavors. I plan on testing out multiple bows to find one that is compatible with my viola and that generates the best sound for my musical goals. After selecting a bow, I will continue practicing in preparation for my recital, becoming familiarized and comfortable with it as much as possible.

I intend to keep this new bow for the rest of my music career, as with my instrument. While my recital will be a culmination of work over the past four years, I hope to play in community orchestras or chamber groups after graduation from UVA. Overall, this bow will help serve these long-term goals I have for my musical growth. For my outcome report and presentation, I plan on providing video examples where I play with my new bow and a detailed account of the improvements in sound.

Timeline:



Budget*:

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
Viola Bow	\$3,000	1	\$3,000.00
Total			\$3,000.00

*I am looking for a bow in the \$3,000 - \$3,500 range and because bow prices can vary significantly, I will use the total funded amount for the full price or for the difference in what I pay out of pocket should I purchase a bow exceeding \$3,000.

Participation in the Arts:

I have been extremely involved in the Music Department here at UVA since my first year. I participated in the Charlottesville Symphony, chamber ensembles, and continued taking private lessons since entering UVA. Through the chamber program, I have played in a string quartet, string sextet, and am currently in a viola quintet. Furthermore, I declared a music major my second year and successfully auditioned into the Performance Concentration program. I enrolled in CASS 1010 and 1011 during the two semesters of my second year and am an active participant in the Miller Arts Program. Most recently, I was approved a DMP title for my recital. In addition to Music Department activities, I am also in the Radio Music Society, a chamber ensemble performing pop songs for string quartets. This semester, I recently joined the UVA Baroque Orchestra, led by Professor David Sariti. I am very thankful for the Miller Arts Program for enhancing my musical participation here at UVA.

Music Portfolio Examples:

https://youtu.be/zm-vIb_AuIM

<https://youtu.be/B0K71BKxxpY>