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### **Viola Resources Funding Proposal Outcome Report**

I am extremely thankful for the Miller Arts Scholar Program for granting me funding to purchase several items including a high-quality microphone, shoulder rest, rosin, a new string set, bow, and sheet music for repertoire for future studying. With these materials, in particular, the Blue Snowball microphone, shoulder rest, and rosin, the quality of my performances, practice sessions, and individual lessons has greatly improved and drastically enhanced my sound over this past spring semester.

With the Blue Snowball microphone, the quality of my sound has upgraded not only over lessons on Zoom, but also for audition and jury recordings. Prior to obtaining this microphone, my viola instructor often remarked that the audio would be scratchy or cut in and out. It was quite difficult not being able to exhibit the full range of my sound as my teacher was not able to provide me more focused critique. We often had to let many small bits of advice simply slide because of the technological limitations. With the addition of the Blue Snowball, I was able to boost some of the sound in terms of finer nuances with some strategic positioning. This microphone was extremely user-friendly and helped overcome some of the barriers that Zoom audio poses for music lessons.

The new shoulder rest relieved much of the bodily tension I held in my shoulders and neck. My prior shoulder rest was extremely worn from years of usage with much of the legs' stability loosened. It also frequently fell off my instrument completely. Because of how often it fell off, I unconsciously built up large amounts of tension in order to keep it upright. Per the recommendation of my viola instructor, I purchased the PEDI Elegante shoulder rest. It is extremely lightweight and has tight legs that firmly grasp the instrument, helping me release a lot of shoulder clenching and consequently provided me greater mobility in my playing without the worry of the shoulder rest coming loose.

The rosin gave me a much richer and rounded sound. My previous rosin was not able to maintain as much friction between the strings and the bow hairs, often making my sound floatier and less grounded. The new rosin made it easier to maintain constant contact with the bow hairs and helped me more effortlessly pull a resonant note out of the instrument.

I cannot thank the Miller Arts Scholar Program enough for providing me the funding for these various items and supporting my musical goals. These resources will help me for the rest of my time at UVA and assist me in my journey to continuously improve as a violist.