

Cassie Lipton
November 29th, 2022
Minigrant Outcome Report

Developing My Songwriting Skills

Thanks to the generous funding of the Miller Arts Scholar program, I was able to purchase my own keyboard to write demos for my songs. The amount of time and energy I put into songwriting instantly increased once I had a real keyboard and was no longer trying to hit chords on my tiny mobile keyboard app. I have always felt somewhat limited by my lack of easy access to an accompanying instrument, which is part of the reason I have been drawn to poetry in the past. With my keyboard, I was able to start composing melodies for many lyrics I have written and begun adapting what had previously been poems into songs. On my new keyboard, I have written demos for love songs, protest songs, and much more. I have experimented in major and minor keys and discovered the ways in which the music can influence the lyrics, rather than simply vice versa, which is how I had always written songs previously. Lyrics first, then music. Now, I can test out different moods on the keyboard and write lyrics to fit them.

I have written songs for my Songwriting class on this keyboard, which I believe has helped me to excel in the class. On a recent submission, Professor Corey Harris commented that the song had an “extremely catchy melody which makes the song flow wonderfully.” I had co-written this song with two other students, and had come up with large portions of the melody on my keyboard. In addition to classwork, I have also done much more writing in my free time. This instrument will continue to be useful not just this semester but into the future as I take Intro to Music and Computers and Composing Mixtapes next semester, two classes I am very excited for. I want to be a lifelong musician, and writing my own songs is a big part of that. I am extremely grateful to the Miller Arts Scholar Program for their generous support.

Final Budget

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| Casio CT-X3000 61-key Portable Arranger Keyboard Essentials Bundle | \$449.99 |
| Taxes | \$27.11 |
| Total | \$473.84 |

