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Miller Arts Mini Grant Outcome Report  
Spring 2023

My original proposal centered around the lack of cultural diversity in the flute repertoire and my hopes to be part of changing that, both through the works I play and how I monetarily support the arts. I decided to commission a work by a living composer, which was funded by the Miller Arts program. Since receiving funding, I have signed a contract with well-known flute composer Judy Nishimura to receive a 3-4 minute original work for solo flute in exchange for \$500. I will receive Nishimura's final product in October at the latest, and it will premiere at my Distinguished Major Program Recital in Spring 2024. In the meantime, I have been listening to Nishimura's ideas for the piece and working with her to carry out my vision. She gave me six options for where she saw it going:

1. Your idea of enchanted forest creatures, perhaps enhanced with a classical vibe a la "Midsummer Night's Dream," with mischievous fairies cavorting with mortals in the forest.
2. A nature hike with real forest creatures...birds, bears, otters, deer.
3. A homage to really timeless places. I'd like to evoke the feeling of awe that you get when in the presence of the ancients. I myself love old cathedrals, a subject that would easily lend itself to thoughtful musical treatment.
4. Music that could be used as background for a beautifully photographed nature documentary. Have you ever listened to the music composed for those National Geographic specials, or the BBC Earth series? A flute solo could be so evocative of any form of nature, IMO.
5. I was thinking of "Syrinx" and of how it was supposed to be Pan's love letter to the wood nymph Syrinx. What would happen if Syrinx answered with her own solo? Would it be just as ardent, or skittish, or self-absorbed? I could take Debussy's classic solo and reinvent it as "Syrinx's Reply." Lots of possibilities there.
6. Lastly, I was wondering if I could write a sort of chaconne, a distinct melody, with a set of variations in different styles...a Bach partita, classical, romantic, jazz, modern, etc."

I told her I liked ideas one and two best. I am very excited to be able to work with Nishimura and to be able to support women artists. I can't wait to perform her work at my recital, which is the culmination of my work in music at UVA. I thank the Miller Arts Scholars for their support!