

**Traveling to Hungary for Thesis and Performance Research**  
**Faculty Mentor:** Professor Daniel Sender ([dls8kb@virginia.edu](mailto:dls8kb@virginia.edu))

I have spent the past few semesters studying the music of prominent early 20th-century Hungarian composers such as Kodály, Bartók, and Székely with Professor Daniel Sender, who is a scholar of Hungarian music. My interest in this music began when I joined Professor Sender's violin studio in the Fall of 2019 and was introduced to Zoltán Kodály's First String Quartet. I quickly fell in love with the challenges and intricacies of this music as well as the history behind the music of this region. Since then, I have studied works by Zoltán Székely and Béla Bartók, and am now planning on pursuing a Distinguished Major Project through the UVA Music Department. My DMP project is focused on producing a thesis exploring the Hungarian nationalism and incorporation of Hungarian folk music into the works of Kodály, Bartók, and Székely. I am also planning on giving a 4th-year recital as a culmination of my research and study of the violin repertoire by these composers.

In order to further my research on this topic, I am applying for a grant to **travel to Budapest, Hungary, over spring break of 2022**. Traveling to Budapest gives me the opportunity to study with musicians most familiar with Hungarian folk music. Professor Sender has studied extensively in Hungary and will arrange violin lessons for me with Hungarian musicians András Jánosi, Miklós Perényi, and Vilmos Szabadi. Jánosi is a folk violinist who teaches at the Folk Music School of Obuda and is also on faculty at the Liszt Academy, which is Hungary's national school of music. Perényi is a world-renowned cellist who knew Kodály personally and would be able to provide first-hand insight on interpreting and performing Kodály's music. Szabadi is a violinist who studied at and now teaches at the Liszt Academy. Lessons with each of these musicians would help me with the understanding and interpretation of Hungarian folk music within the pieces I am studying. Their expertise on folk music is not something I have access to in the U.S. Traveling to Budapest would also give me access to musical archives and resources that would allow me to produce a much higher quality thesis than I would be able to simply using the resources in the United States. Because much of my research is concerned with composers who have produced works in the last 100 years, copyright restrictions mean that my access to information regarding this topic is severely limited. Traveling to a city steeped in music history that directly relates to my thesis topic would allow me to reach a deeper level of understanding and appreciation for the subject matter I've been focused on for the past two years. Studying in Hungary would allow me to gain greater comfort and familiarity with the music I will be preparing for my 4th-year DMP recital, which will happen in late Spring of 2022. Currently, I plan to travel from March 7 to March 12, giving me March 8-March 12 as four full days in Budapest. I will use this time to take lessons with the musicians mentioned above, meet with László Vikárius, who is an expert on the subject of Bartók, visit the Bartók archives, attend at least one Hungarian folk music concert, and explore the city to better understand the roots of the music I am studying and the history of the composers I am researching.

My outcome report will consist of a presentation detailing my experience during this trip. I will include video clips of lessons I participate in as well as any other musical experiences that would benefit from having a recording archived. I will also include in my outcome report specifically what aspects of my DMP research have most benefited from the trip, and will share insight on any and all knowledge I gain as a result.

One limitation to this project is the current international travel policy at UVA due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I attempted to open an International Travel Form in tandem with this Arts Award application as was stated in the grant application, but the ISO is currently not accepting applications due to the fact that study abroad opportunities through UVA have been cancelled through the summer of 2021. I have applied for international travel through the ISO before, and am familiar with the process, so I don't foresee any challenges when I am able to fill out the international travel application and will do

so as soon as it becomes available to me. My major concern for this project is the status of the COVID-19 pandemic and its influence on international travel in the future. I am worried that if the pandemic worsens between now and next spring, this project will become unrealistic. Therefore, I am also proposing a secondary project for this Arts Award that I would be able to complete if pandemic restrictions prevent me from traveling internationally in 2022.

### Proposed Timeline

#### **Summer 2021:**

- I will continue taking lessons with Prof. Sender over the summer in order to learn new repertoire in preparation for recital and masterclass opportunities.
- I will also use this time to begin my DMP thesis research.

#### **Fall 2021:**

- By September 30 of 2021, a decision will be made in tandem with the UVA ISO and Prof. Sender on the safety of pursuing an international trip. In the case that the trip is unsafe or advised against, the alternate proposed project will be pursued.
- COVID-19 permitting, I will begin the actual planning of the trip in October of 2021. This includes purchasing plane tickets, arranging housing, purchasing the carbon fiber bow and polycarbonate violin case, and drafting a detailed itinerary. Although I understand the drawbacks of not having a set itinerary earlier in the process, I will not begin this process until I am certain I will be able to travel and can dedicate any funding I receive to this project.
- The itinerary will be reviewed by Prof. Sender, who will give recommendations and aid in the scheduling of lessons with violinists in Budapest.
- I will also complete a draft of my DMP thesis by the end of the Fall semester, which will allow me to assess what resources would be most valuable to me while in Hungary.

#### **Spring 2022:**

- Prior to spring break, I will continue preparing for my recital and editing my DMP thesis.
- I will travel to Budapest over the course of 6 days, leaving on March 7 and returning March 12.
- I will give an outcome presentation at the Center for Undergraduate Excellence during the first week of April.
- I will present a 4th-year DMP recital showcasing my studies in April 2022 as well as submit my DMP thesis by the end of the spring term.

### Proposed Budget

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Airfare*	\$900	This would cover the cost of a roundtrip flight from Washington, DC to Budapest, Hungary
Transportation from Airport to Hotel	\$8	A <a href="#">bus ticket</a> from the airport to the city center costs €3, or around \$4. This will cover travel from and to the airport.
Hotel Cost**	\$400	Average cost of \$100 per night for 4 nights.
Per Diem**	\$522	This will cover meals (\$118 per day for 4 days = \$472), and concert tickets (\$50)
BKK weekly pass	\$16	BKK is the Budapest transportation system. <a href="#">This pass</a> costs 4950 HUF (\$16) and will cover transportation around the city.

Violin Lesson Fees	\$300	\$100 per lesson for 3 individual lessons
Student Insurance through UVA ISO	\$9	This value is taken from the insurance information tab on the UVA ISO's <a href="#">website</a>
CodaBow Diamond GX carbon fiber violin bow	\$845	<a href="#">This</a> carbon fiber violin bow is much safer to travel with than my wooden violin bow, which is more fragile. I have tried CodaBow's violin bows before and am happy with the quality, balance, and tone.
<b>Total</b>	\$3,000	

\* Estimated airfare for March 2022 is based on current plane ticket pricing

\*\* These are based on the U.S. State Department per diem rates for [Budapest](#)

**Alternate Proposal: Investing in a New Viola**  
**Faculty Mentor:** Professor Ayn Balija ([atb3y@virginia.edu](mailto:atb3y@virginia.edu))

I have been an avid chamber musician since high school, and have dedicated much of my chamber music experience to learning and performing on viola. I have continued this at UVA through rehearsing and performing on viola with two chamber ensembles. In addition, I regularly participate in viola ensembles and volunteer for recording projects. Learning viola has given me a greater appreciation for the inner voices of the string instruments and has made me a more well-rounded musician. Although my experience with viola performance is extensive, my progress has been limited by the quality of the instrument I am using. Last semester, I applied for and received a Miller Arts Minigrant to fund the purchase of a new viola bow that would allow me to gain greater versatility in my sound and technique. I would like to expand on this project and these goals by **spending the next year looking for and ultimately investing in a new viola**. Before coming to UVA, I used a low-quality instrument to practice on and borrowed my teacher's higher-quality instrument for performances. I avoided performing on my lower-quality instrument due to its poor tone and lack of projection, which in chamber groups ultimately holds the entire ensemble back. Currently, I am using a viola that is on loan to me by Professor Ayn Balija through the University of Virginia Music Department. I am incredibly grateful that I have an instrument to practice and perform on while at the University, but after I graduate I will lose access to this. The cost of investing in a quality viola is high and is especially challenging for me to afford because I am also responsible for covering the cost of upkeep of my violin, which includes bow repairs, string changes, and music purchases. Investing in a new instrument before I graduate is vital to my continued study of chamber music at the highest possible level, and receiving this arts award would allow me to finally purchase a high-quality instrument that I can use for years to come.

Finding a new viola requires testing out different instruments over an extended period of time, making sure to compare and contrast qualities of each instrument and decide what factors are most important to the musician. Committing to purchasing an instrument for long-term use requires a lengthy trial and error process. This will ensure that I am investing in an instrument I am most comfortable with and that will work best for me. Because of the time and energy needed to ensure the success of investing in a new instrument, receiving this Arts Award would give me the opportunity not only to fund the purchase of this instrument, but also to allow me to work closely with Professor Balija, who is the viola professor at UVA, throughout the instrument trial process to give me feedback and advice on any instruments I try. In addition, my chamber coach, Professor Sender, will be able to provide feedback during ensemble rehearsals, coachings, and masterclasses. Both Professor Sender and Professor Balija understand the limitations of the viola I currently use. In addition, their knowledge of myself as a violist and chamber musician will greatly help me navigate this process. I will primarily be looking for a viola

from a luthier in the Virginia area, but am not originally from Virginia and am largely unaware of the instrument shops in the area. Having a faculty mentor such as Professor Balija who is more familiar with this guide me through this process will be extremely helpful.

My outcome report for this project will consist of a walkthrough of my experience testing violas. I will give specifications and qualities of each instrument, as well as audio clips that reflect how each instrument differs. I will also share how this process has impacted me as a musician.

### Proposed Timeline

#### **Summer 2021:**

- I will work on selling my lower-quality viola to help offset the cost of the new viola.
- I will be in Charlottesville over the summer and will start a preliminary search for possible viola options in the area.

#### **Fall 2021:**

- In September of 2021, if I decide to pursue the alternate proposal, I will begin contacting a variety of luthiers in the Charlottesville and greater Virginia area regarding the instruments they currently have available.
- In October of 2021, I will utilize Fall Break to travel to the luthiers I have contacted and try instruments in their shops. I will hopefully select an instrument or instruments to trial in rehearsals and lessons at UVA for the remainder of the semester.
- In December of 2021, I will make a decision regarding purchasing a viola.

#### **Spring 2022:**

- During the Spring semester I will utilize the new viola in chamber ensemble rehearsals and concerts, during lessons, and at other performance opportunities.
- I will give an outcome presentation at the Center for Undergraduate Excellence during the first week of April.

### Proposed Budget

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Viola	\$2,700	If the cost of the viola I buy is greater than this allocated portion of the budget, I will cover the cost with funding from selling my older viola.
Viola Case	\$200	Most carbon-fiber viola cases are around \$200, so I am planning on spending around this much on a case that I can use to travel with the instrument.
Instrument Insurance	\$100	This is the estimated cost of insuring the instrument. My violin insurance is around 3.5% of the cost of the instrument, so I am assuming the same will be true for the viola.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my application. I understand that submitting two completely different project proposals is rare, but I am hopeful that this reflects my wide range of interests and passions within music and my commitment to utilizing this Arts Award to its fullest potential while remaining flexible through the COVID-19 pandemic. Any aid in the funding of these projects would have a monumental impact on me as a musician and a person. Please contact me with any questions or concerns about this proposal.

### **Evidence of Participation in the Arts**

Over the past three years, I have displayed involvement, dedication, and commitment to the music department at the University of Virginia. Since declaring the music major in my second year, I have taken a wide range of music classes spanning a variety of topics. Coursework most relevant to this proposal are classes such as Theory I, 19th CE Music History, and 20/21st CE Music History. I've also developed other skills in music composition, arrangement, and aural skills through Orchestration I, Ecoacoustics, and Musicianship II. I have been a violinist in the Charlottesville Symphony since the first semester of my first year. I am currently the violist in a piano quartet as well as the violist of the Jupiter String Quartet with fellow Arts Scholars Brent Davis (cellist) and Sophie Park (violinist), as well as violinist Amelia Bailey. I have also been taking violin lessons since my first year and am currently studying with Professor Daniel Sender, who is the concertmaster of the Charlottesville Symphony. I am currently the Chair of the Charlottesville Symphony's Players Committee, which is a committee of faculty members, students, and community members dedicated to improving the social, musical, and educational Symphony experience for musicians. I am also a student representative for the Music Department, and represent the department at UVA Music information sessions, the Activities Fair, Arts Grounds Day, and Days on the Lawn, among other events. In addition, I am a student worker and work for the Music Department as a desk supervisor, for the Music Library as a circulation assistant, and for the Symphony as a bowing assistant.

I have been a Miller Arts Scholar since March of 2020. In the past year, I have taken the CASS 1010 and 1011 seminars. I have also applied for and received two minigrants to date through the Miller Arts Scholars program. I received a Fall Artist Minigrant to fund the purchase of a new viola bow, and I just recently received a Spring Artist Minigrant to fund the purchase of a variety of necessities for my violin. I have enjoyed my time as a Miller Arts Scholar thus far, and have been most excited to get to know arts scholars from other disciplines. I have always felt that the music department is secluded from the rest of the UVA Arts community, but being a Miller Arts Scholar has allowed me to connect with, learn about, and gain inspiration from other artists in the UVA community.