

Hunter Colson
Rising Fourth Year Miller Arts Scholar Award Outcome Report
Spring 2025

Funds Towards Distinguished Major Project

Outcome:

Consistent with my proposal, I purchased two instrument libraries and a Zoom Field recorder for use in my distinguished major project (DMP). I originally planned to compose a classical inspired multi-movement piece for guitar and piano for my DMP. The Ample Guitar Library I purchased is a professional quality library with a variety of guitars. During the summer and fall semester, I acquainted myself with the library while generating ideas for the guitar piece as I explored the range of guitars (acoustic, electric, banjo, and more). Working with Professor Reid (Composition I, MUSI 4581) and Professor Burtner (my distinguished major advisor via Independent Study MUSI 4993), we were unable to identify a guitarist to perform a composition in a live recital performance as planned for the DMP. As a result, I pivoted away from the guitar and instead explored introducing additional instruments into what would be the DMP composition. The Swan Solo Instrument Library Bundle, the second instrument library I purchased, met this adjustment well as it includes solo woodwinds, strings, and brass. This comprehensive, professional quality library allowed me to modify my DMP composition plans. I had originally selected the Swan Solo Instrument Library Bundle because it pairs well with the piano in Logic Pro and Professor Reid and I had considered expanding beyond the guitar and piano. The Swan Solo Instrument Library Bundle has allowed for broad creative expression.

I am currently enrolled in Professor Reid's Composition II (MUSI 4582) and Independent Study (MUSI 4993) with Professor Burtner. For my DMP, I researched the clarinet, violin, and viola. As I have not previously written for this particular ensemble, I studied the instruments' various strengths and weaknesses in order to write parts that are appropriate. I also researched works written for similar ensembles by my favorite composers, in order to further inform my approach. Ultimately, I composed two movements of a quartet for clarinet, violin, viola, and piano in A minor, akin to the trios and quartets by romantic composers such as Beethoven and Brahms. The first movement is a sonata form that frequently alternates between moments of turbulence and serenity. After exploring various key centers and developing its themes, the music is tragically unable to escape from its A minor tonic key, concluding with an unparalleled fury. The second movement is in the key of E minor, consisting of three contrasting sections. This movement is characterized by a gentle, yet pained, ethereal atmosphere. These first two movements will be performed at the Undergraduate Composer Concert on April 19, 2025 which will be recorded. I will work with the musicians in advance of the Concert and share the recording at the Miller Arts Scholar Annual Art Award Showcase on April 27, 2025.

Although the Zoom F3 is not currently incorporated into my DMP composition, I expect to be able to use it in the future as my portfolio expands.

I am extremely grateful for the Miller Arts Fourth Year Award which allowed me to purchase these valuable tools and for the continued support of my musical pursuits. Working with Professor Burtner and Professor Reid on my DMP has been a once in a lifetime opportunity. I have tremendous gratitude for the many ways the Miller Arts Scholar Program has supported my growth as a composer during my time here at UVA.

Complete Budget:

Item	Cost	Total
Ample Guitar Library https://www.amplesound.net/en/purchase.asp	\$1899 + 6% DC Sales Tax \$113.94	\$2,012.94
Swam Solo Instrument Library Bundle https://audiomodeling.com/swam-engine/swam-all-in-bundle/	Normally \$1400 [50% education discount \$700] + 6% DC Sales Tax \$42.00	\$742
Zoom Field Recorder https://zoomcorp.com/en/us/field-recorders/field-recorders/f3/	\$279.99 + 6% DC Sales Tax \$16.80	\$296.79
Total		\$3051.73 (\$51.73 paid out of pocket)