

Performance Inspiration: A New Perspective

Emily Hunter, Miller Arts Scholar (Music)

Project Proposal: I am asking for funding in three areas: continuing private lessons over the summer with my local instructor in Northern Virginia, attending a New York Philharmonic Orchestra concert, and one private lesson from a New York flutist, recommended by Kelly Sulick. This work will be ultimately presented via two orchestral excerpt recordings: one before I visit New York and one after.

Faculty Mentor: Kelly Sulick, ksulick@gmail.com

Project Overview

Private lessons catalyze my performance and practice skills. Input from others is one of the most important elements of music since players themselves can be biased, and outside opinions can point out details they might not notice. I have been taking consistent private lessons since the age of 13 and have recently taken a break this semester due to financial and time constraints. At UVA, I have noticed tremendous growth in my flute playing from private lessons in the areas of expanding my dynamic range, breath control, and learning new pieces outside of my comfort zone. Since pausing private lessons, I feel myself plateauing in my performance abilities. This summer will grant me the energy to dedicate time to improving my technique and boosting my confidence to perform for others again.

My favorite musical experience was a few years ago, in the National Symphony Orchestra Fellows Program. From Q&A sessions to watching the professionals rehearse, I became excited and inspired to perform. Witnessing others express their personal experiences through a different mode of communication is a beautiful thing and I miss it. The last time I went to the Kennedy Center was over winter break with my best friend and parents; however, the NSO is the only orchestra I have listened to in person. I was heavily involved in orchestra in high school and I took MUEN 3610 twice throughout college. I decided to not take it again this semester because I was not sure if woodwinds would be able to play with the full orchestra, and that is the main reason why I joined the class in the first place. Nonetheless, I did have a good experience meeting some people via zoom and getting to know what the Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is like! Now that the mask mandate has been lifted, I will most likely take it next semester if it does not interfere with any other Wednesday classes that I need to take for my major. I have a long list of orchestras I want to visit. Some of which include the Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, and Cleveland Philharmonic.

This project's goal is to measure my playing improvement from listening to others. I will measure this improvement by recording the orchestral excerpt performed in the May 14th concert: Beethoven Symphony No. 6 before and after the concert and flute lessons. I am

proposing funding to go to New York to see the New York Philharmonic play, to have a lesson from a New York flutist, recommended by my current teacher, and to have five in-person lessons locally in Northern Virginia. I will be staying in New York from May 13th to May 15th and traveling by train. The orchestra will be performing Nina Shekhar, *Lumina* (New York Premiere); Mozart, Violin Concerto No. 5; and Beethoven, Symphony No. 6 *Pastoral*. The other two pieces in the program do not have flute excerpts since one of them is a violin concerto and the other is a premiere of a fairly new piece, and I cannot find a flute excerpt online due to its novelty. One week after visiting New York, I will apply what I have learned and record a second recording of Beethoven's flute excerpt. I plan on keeping track of how the New York Philharmonic differs from the NSO, and how that information can apply to my own flute-playing. These notes will be incorporated into my project outcome paper.

Before the New York trip, I will be at home in Northern Virginia. Here, I will take one lesson with my local private instructor, Laura Kaufman. It has been a while since I took lessons with her since I normally take them at school with Kelly Sulick, so we will probably dedicate this lesson to planning my repertoire for the summer and other technique goals. Some goals I have in mind are to sharpen my articulation and to play some extended technique pieces, such as *Zoom Tube*. After this lesson, I will practice and record Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 flute excerpt and head off to New York! During the New York trip, I will have one lesson with a private instructor there, working on the excerpt and I will also take notes on the symphony in performance. After the trip, I will make a second recording of the excerpt. The remaining four lessons with Laura Kaufman will consist of learning new repertoire, working on the Beethoven excerpt, and any other supplemental practice exercises such as scales and etudes. At the end of the summer, I will make a final recording of the Beethoven excerpt and reflect on the differences between the three recordings. Since this project involves a lot of traveling—from Virginia to New York, hotel to the Lincoln Center, etc.—some issues I may run into will most likely be logistical. Additionally, there is the possibility that the train will be delayed. I have traveled alone on an airplane two times and both times, my flights were canceled or delayed, and I ended up stuck at the airport for the entire day. This is why I decided that a train would be the best mode of travel, since I do not have good luck with planes. Even if there is some delay in travel to New York City, it will not interfere with the concert because I am traveling the day before the concert begins. I hope to see a difference in the first and last recordings and I cannot wait to get started on this project!

Budget

Expense	Amount	Details
Five private flute lessons with Laura Kaufman	\$600	Each lesson costs \$120 per 1.5 hours. During these lessons, I will prepare orchestral excerpts and solo

		repertoire.
Train ticket to New York City on May 13th	\$150	The Amtrak train would depart at 8:50 AM and arrive around 3:30 PM. This is the price of a coach ticket.
Hotel Room for two nights	\$706.49	This estimate comes from current rates of the Hilton Inn for nights May 13th and 14th as of right now from hotels.com. The concert is located in The Lincoln Center, so I chose a hotel close to that area.
Train ticket from New York City on May 15th	\$140	The Amtrak train would depart at 2:15 PM and arrive around 9 PM. This is the price of a coach ticket for May 15th as of right now.
New York Philharmonic Concert ticket for May 14th at 8:00 PM	\$250	The orchestra will be performing Nina Shekhar, <i>Lumina</i> (New York Premiere); Mozart, Violin Concerto No. 5; and Beethoven, Symphony No. 6 <i>Pastoral</i> . This is a Mezzanine seat.*
One New York Flutist Private Lesson	\$250	Kelly Sulick is referring me to a list of New York flute teachers, both in the orchestra and not. I will reach out to a few of them to compare their availability and prices. I am basing this expected cost off of information provided via Kelly Sulick.

Transportation within the city**	\$288	Walking from my hotel to the Lincoln Center is dangerous and too far of a walk. The best way to go to the concert would be to Uber, Lyft, or take a taxi. This cost also accounts for the transportation to and from the train station as well as to and from the flute lesson, with tip. I am estimating that each ride will be \$40, then multiplying that amount by 0.20 for a 20% tip. Since there are going to be 6 trips, the total = $6 * (40 * 0.2) = \$288$.
Food during the stay	\$100	I will need to eat during the trip, and I plan on buying a few groceries on the first day.
Total Cost	\$2,484.49	

*This ticket price came directly from the New York Philharmonic website.

**This number is a rough estimate based on prior experience for uberling within cities, since rates can differ by time.

Timeline

Spring 2022:

- Book a train ticket to and from New York City.
- Purchase New York Philharmonic Orchestra concert ticket.
- Book a hotel room for two nights.
- Reach out to a number of New York flute teachers to see which one would be able to meet me on May 14th, before the concert.

Summer 2022:

- Travel to Northern Virginia in the summer to stay with my family. While back home, I will have eight, in-person private lessons with my local instructor, Laura Kaufman.
- Take note of how the New York Philharmonic Orchestra is different from the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO). Since I am from Northern Virginia, I have only listened to

the NSO through the program, National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellows. I learned a lot from listening to their performances and rehearsals and am curious as to how their practices are different from the New York Philharmonic's.

- Attend the concert and continue working on the Beethoven excerpt.

Fall 2022:

- Enroll in MUPF to take lessons at UVA with Kelly Sulick.
- Plan to participate in a music competition to perform the pieces I worked on during the summer, depending on where I am with my repertoire.

Winter 2022:

- Write and complete an Outcome Report by 2/1 because I will be studying abroad next Spring!

Portfolio Examples

Below my studio class performance of Ballade by Frank Martin. This is my favorite solo piece because it portrays such deep emotion and can be interpreted in many different ways. I decided to choose the first five minutes of the eight minute solo because it displays my phrasing a little more.

https://soundcloud.com/user-388123367/hunteremilymusicssample1mp3?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

Participation in UVA Arts:

- MUSI 3332 (Musicianship I, Spring 2022)
- CASS 1011 (College Arts Scholars Seminar, Spring 2022)
- MUPF 3150 (Adv Performance, Fall 2021 and Spring 2021)
- MUPF 2151 (Performance, Fall 2020)
- MUEN 3610 (Orchestra, Fall 2020 and Fall 2021)
- Tabling for Days On The Lawn (DOTL)*
- Tea Time Recitals (Fall 2020, Spring, 2021, and Fall 2021)
- UVA Flute Forum** (Spring 2018 and 2022)

*I am doing this on Monday, 4/4 to represent the music department for prospective students!

**The Flute Forum is on Saturday 4/2.