

Marcha Kiatrungrit
Mak4ab@virginia.edu
Minigrant Application
September 29, 2017

FAVA Grand Concours & *My Misc Tape*: An Album

Music has not only provided answers in my life when feeling lost—it has become a defining feature of my identity. Music is how I remember my life events and achievements. I record events that are important to me, close my eyes and listen to voice memos, returning to those moments. While some people take pictures, I write songs, record voice lessons, and archive the beautiful sounds of my everyday life.

As photographers might make a photo album of their work, I hope to create an audio album of my life, focusing on my time at the University of Virginia, where my love for music blossomed and has grown exponentially ever since. My passions in music lie in performance, compositions, and production. With my engineering degree, I plan on pursuing sound engineering and music production. This project will allow me to create an album as a showcase of what I have learned so far at UVA and a celebration of the relationships and love that I have formed. *My Miscellaneous Tape* will be the intersection of all the angles of my passions for music and a journey to find out more about myself and the world.

As part of my album, I will record classical pieces that I am studying with Pamela Beasley. I will send in two audio recordings, one French Opera Aria and one French Art Song, to the FAVA Grand Concours, an acclaimed voice competition. For the aria, Mrs. Beasley and I have decided on Offenbach's "Les oiseaux dans la charmille" from *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. We are still deciding between a few art songs, such as "Le lever de la lune" by Camille Saint Saëns, for the competition. These recordings are due by December 1st, and the mp3 recordings that I send in for the competition will also be featured as pieces in my album.

In addition to the most memorable classical pieces I've worked on with Mrs. Beasley, I am planning on including some original compositions of varying genres, mixes, covers, some collaborations to celebrate the wonderful musical connections I have made, and a song compiling sounds that I love and define my everyday life. I have already created some mixes, such as the *Laudate Dominum* mix that I sent in with my MAS application. I write songs usually during a time in which I feel lost, so they are very defining times in my life. I often write to find clarity within the murky, frustrating times. This project will allow me to highlight these important moments and to provide more color to the songs through more professional productions and instrument accompaniment of my compositions; some songs I have already written, and some I will write for the project. I will receive accompaniment from Karen Dalton on the piano for my classical pieces and from my friends in the Music Department and in University Records for other instrumental accompaniment in my compositional and creative works. I plan on working on individual pieces within the album throughout the semester and winter break in order to have it completed for the start of the spring semester.

As the album is a representation of my identity, I plan on not only including my love for music but my friends, family and my heritage. As I have travel plans to Bangkok, Thailand this

December to visit family I have not seen in over ten years, I thought it would also be a great opportunity to collect sounds from my travels and create a piece that honors my lineage and love for my family. This idea was inspired by the “one second per day” video that many people create to commemorate their memories of the year. I plan on allowing the sounds to guide me to create a new and experimental form of music for me. I would like to work on having a Japanese song, perhaps an original composition, with similar intentions to the piece I plan on creating in Thailand this winter, to represent both my Japanese mother and Thai father who have shaped who I am today in more ways that I could imagine.

My Misc. Tape is an album about me but, more importantly, an ode to the people and things that I love. It is a thank you to the people who have supported me along the way, especially the Miller Arts Scholars Program.

Budget

FAVA Grand Concours:

Accompaniment recording session -----	\$ 75 (1.5 hour)
With Karen Dalton	
Voice lesson fee on audition repertoire -----	\$ 120 (2 x 60 mins)
With Pamela Beasley	

The accompaniment fees with Karen Dalton are for the two French pieces in particular, although we may also do other pieces. I allotted two hours of lesson time for the recording session and a preparatory session with Pamela Beasley. I will use the following equipment for recording the pieces for the FAVA Grand Concours and for *My Misc. Tape*.

My Misc. Tape & FAVA Grand Concours:

MXL 770 Professional Studio Condenser Mic + Mic Stand + Pop Filter + XLR Cable Bundle -----	\$ 125
PreSonus AudioBox USB 96: 2x2 USB 2.0 Recording System with Studio One -----	\$ 100
Audio Technica AT2021 Small Diaphragm Cardioid Studio Condenser Microphone w/Clip, Pouch, and 20' XLR Cable -----	\$ 80

Total: \$500

The MXL 770 Condenser Mic will be used to record my voice for various pieces and for the FAVA competition mp3 recordings. Getting an excellent quality recording of the voice without distortion, especially in the higher range, is difficult. Using this vocal microphone is key to recording and reproducing an accurate portrayal of my voice. The pop filter, mic stand, and microphone cable are included and necessary for minimizing distortion, set-up, and for connecting the microphone to the PreSonus AudioBox interface, that will send and store the soundwaves from the microphone into my computer.

The PreSonus AudioBox Interface has two mic inputs, which allows me to use the Audio Technica Small Diaphragm Condenser Mic, which is for instruments, while simultaneously recording my voice on the MXL 770. I would use the interface, for example, when recording the FAVA Grand Concours, so that I could record Karen's accompaniment on the piano and my voice onto Reaper, which I have on my laptop. The interface connects to my computer via USB, and to each microphone through their respective cables that come in each mic package.

These three pieces of equipment will be used for all other recordings on *My Misc. Tape* for original compositions, covers, and collaborations. I plan on bringing the equipment to Thailand to record sounds and music, so having the cases in the packages is extremely useful for travel.

Finally, I would like to thank Miller Arts Scholars for this opportunity and Pamela Beasley and Luke Dahl for their support and guidance through the writing of this proposal.