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Class of 2023  
Music Scholar

## **Fund For Music Resources Outcome**

I am incredibly grateful to the Miller Arts Scholar program for the minigrant that allowed me to grow so much as a musician. In my proposal for this grant I had three goals in mind: to take lessons, build up my library of composition resources, and record my work. Throughout my time performing with my own jazz quartet in Fall 2021 I was able to get sufficient recordings of my work on my own to serve as demos for future gigs. Because of this I felt that spending money on a recording session would not be the best use of my funds. Instead, I had the opportunity to take lessons with several professional guitar players and I decided to focus more of my funds towards that aspect of my project than I anticipated.

Through this minigrant I was able to take lessons with five professional guitar players, all of whom specialize in different aspects of guitar playing. Through a friend I was introduced to the guitarist Steve Herberman who specializes in accompanying vocalists on the guitar. In taking a lesson with Steve I learned about all different types of accompaniment textures for vocalists and really learned how to improve my playing in a duo setting. This skill is particularly relevant to my playing because I have an upcoming show later in the spring with jazz vocalist Tina Hashemi, a MAS alumnus.

Another lesson I was able to take was with Adam Larrabee, a local Charlottesville guitar player. I feel that throughout Adam's career he has really mastered the fundamentals of the guitar more than any other player I've met and by meeting with him I was able to get some great exercises to improve my fundamentals and learn the neck of the guitar better. Mark Whitfield is one of the top bebop guitar players in New York City who I developed a relationship with this past summer. Studying with Mark I was able to discuss the importance of melody in my playing and get his insight into playing bebop. Mark's lessons are the most expensive out of all the people I study with and this grant made it possible for me to continue my relationship with him. Over winter break I was able to take two lessons in person with Ron Petrides who is a former student of Pat Martino. Ron really opened my eyes to Pat Martino's playing and really explained to me what was going on in that style.

Lastly with this grant I was able to purchase the compositional book "Inside the Score". I spent a large amount of time studying this book over winter break, particularly the section on Sammy Nestico's "Basie Straight Ahead" and finally learned the correct way to voice chords for big band jazz ensemble in the Count Basie style. I composed a piece over winter break using the techniques I learned in this book. The score of the piece, "The Way You Look At Me" is attached and the piece will be performed at the upcoming UVA Jazz Ensemble concert on April 9.

**Budget:**

<b>Expense:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>
Steve Herberman Lesson	\$80
Adam Larrabee Lesson	\$60
Inside the Score Book	\$60
Mark Whitfield Lesson	\$125
Ron Petredes Lesson x2	\$200 (\$100 each)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$525</b> (\$25 out of pocket)