

Michael McNulty  
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Fall Minigrant Proposal

## **Fund for Music Resources**

### *Project Overview*

In my first year as a Miller Arts Scholar I have tried my best to take advantage of all the resources available to me to become a better musician in terms of grants, music classes, and seeking out mentorships with faculty in the music department and local Charlottesville community. This past summer I was able to get a job working at a jazz camp in Bridgeport, CT where I was able to extend my network and get a foot in the door breaking into the New York City jazz scene. As I look ahead to my life after college, I have realized that what will put me in the best position as an artist is having my playing and writing skills as together as possible when I graduate and also having a strong portfolio of work that I can share to show people what I'm capable of. To improve my guitar playing this summer I started taking guitar lessons with Mark Whitfield, one of the most prominent names in jazz guitar in New York City. In addition, I've started my own jazz guitar trio and rock band this semester to get more experience playing a variety of styles and learning a wide range of music. To improve my composition I've reached out to a variety of people for mentorship including a graduate composition student at the Thornton School of Music at USC to gain feedback on my compositions. I've also been looking ahead to my fourth year distinguished music major project, thinking about what kind of portfolio I want to have built by then. I have realized that to continue to improve I need to continue taking guitar lessons, study more scores for my composition, and start recording some of my own work so that I can start building a name for myself. If this grant is funded, I hope to accomplish all three of these things with the money. I am incredibly grateful to Miller Arts Scholars' consideration.

### *List of Requests for Grant Money*

Mark Whitfield -

Mark Whitfield is one of the most prominent guitarists on the New York City jazz scene and often records with people like Christian McBride and other top jazz musicians. Over the summer I went to one of his gigs in New York City, introduced myself and asked if I could take lessons with him. He told me he loved to teach and I was able to take one lesson with him before I went back to Charlottesville. This winter I want to take two more lessons with him so I can continue building my relationship with him and improving my guitar skills.

Website: <https://www.markwhitfield.com/>

"Inside the Score" Jazz Composition Book -

In my first semester at UVA I applied for grant money to take a composition lesson with famous composer/arranger Rob Mathes. In this lesson he informed me that if I'm serious about

writing for big band jazz ensemble, I need to study more scores and get a book called “Inside the Score” that includes a full analysis of a variety of big band scores and is an incredible resource for jazz composers. I hope to buy this book with this grant.

[https://www.amazon.com/Inside-Score-Detailed-Analysis-Ensemble/dp/9991739661/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=inside+the+score&qid=1633697072&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Inside-Score-Detailed-Analysis-Ensemble/dp/9991739661/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=inside+the+score&qid=1633697072&sr=8-1)

Jazz Demo Tape -

In order to start building my portfolio as a jazz artist, I want to get some good recordings of me playing jazz at my current level. In order to do this, I want to record a demo tape of my new jazz trio where I will be the band leader. If funded, I will be doing this recording project at the studio called “The Sound” in Charlottesville and have spoken to the owner, Mark Graham, about how much this project will cost.

*Budget*

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
Mark Whitfield Lesson	2 lessons x \$125 = \$250
Inside The Score Book	\$64
Recording Project	\$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$514</b>

**Note:** I plan to cover any costs above \$500 out of pocket.