

Emma Reilly
Fall 22 Miller Arts Minigrant Proposal

Everyday Elegies: An Audio-Visual EP

Project Summary

An elegy, traditionally, is a mourning poem. It is one of reflection, of lamentation, of repentance. The form harkens back to the ancient Greek and Roman couplets, but the oft-quoted “Elegy Written in a Church Courtyard” by Thomas Gray is exemplary as he contemplates the death of a fellow poet in 1750. In my own work, however, I seek the everyday elegy: the relationship that never was, or the friend that became an enemy, or the youth that has slipped away without realizing it.

As a Creative Writing scholar and an artist, I have always been fascinated by the distinctions we draw between form. We create arbitrary lines between poem and play, prose and song, script and story—all without truly examining why we have created these lines. In my coursework at UVA, I have explored these distinctions: a music performance class with Stephanie Nakasian has taught me the value of storytelling through song, while a poetry class with Brian Teare has allowed me to explore the combination of poetry and visual art through surrealist collage, and my screenwriting class with Patrick Cribben has taught me the value of economical language in storytelling as I explore the medium of the screen. My Miller Arts Seminar this fall, most notably, has taught me the value of collaboration across disciplines as I work with and learn from artists across disciplines.

In my collection of Everyday Elegies, I seek to explore the distinctions and connections between form. I will create a six-song EP accompanied by six video-visual art pieces exploring everyday losses in my life. These losses may shift in size and scope, but each will be crafted with care as I explore *why* these stories are best communicated in the audio-visual form. Due to the ambitious nature of this project, I hope to utilize the Artist’s Minigrant in securing varied supplies: an Akai Mini Keyboard for production of the six original songs; Final Cut Pro for Mac so that I can edit the visual accompaniment for each song; a Maxone 320GB hard drive to store the project; and finally, the use of the remaining grant to purchase costume and set pieces that may be necessary as the project evolves.

The Everyday Elegy collection is not simply an exploration of loss or grief. There is a certain beauty in an elegy that stems from gratitude for these lost things, the memory of them; my elegiac collection is grateful to all that has been immortalized because there would be no everyday beauty without these everyday losses. And in its immortalization, the elegy questions a loss itself: if it has been petrified in the amber of art, is a thing really gone? In the end, my collection of everyday elegies will explore this and more as it dismantles the divisions within genre, form, and art itself.

Project Timeline

Weeks 1-2 Place orders for projected materials; craft first draft of *Everyday Elegies* songs.

Weeks 3-4 Begin production of original songs; craft treatment for each short film; begin storyboarding for visual art pieces.

Week 5-6 Complete production of EP; finalize storyboards for visual art pieces.

Week 6-7 Film visual pieces to accompany EP.

Week 8-9 Edit visual pieces; initial screening for family/friends to receive feedback and editing suggestions.

Week 10 Final edits; presentation of *Everyday Elegies* Audio-Visual EP.

Budget

Item	Price	Justification
AKAI Professional MPK Mini MK3 - 25 Key USB MIDI Keyboard Controller Amazon Link	\$119.00	The keyboard controller will allow me to produce the music for my EP in my home; in the past, this has been impossible due to the limitations of my Mac keyboard as a production software, and will allow me to create a more advanced, ranged sound for the final EP.
Apple FinalCut Pro Apple Website Link	\$299.00	FinalCut Pro will allow me to edit and finalize the visual aspect of the Audio-Visual EP with advanced and user-friendly software, creating a more visually interesting and beautiful final product.
Maxone 320GB Ultra Slim Portable External Hard Drive HDD USB 3.0 Amazon Link	\$24.29	Due to the storage on my computer, a hard drive is necessary to store and protect the EP, especially for the expected size of the visual aspect.
Misc. Set / Costume Pieces (TBD)	\$57.00 (remaining grant funds)	These costume and set pieces will be vital in creating a more visually interesting and meaningful visual aspect of the piece, and enhance the presentation of the EP for peers.