

Henry Boland
Third Year Miller Arts Scholar
Fall 2024 Minigrant Proposal

Gig-Worthy Guitar Amp

Project Summary:

Since receiving funding for my Miller Arts Award last semester, I've made significant progress as a songwriter and producer. I've written, recorded, and produced around 25-30 complete demos, released seven songs across all streaming platforms (with more on the way), and I continue to refine my sound through my independent study course with Michael Rasbury. This semester I'm doing a greater number of live performances, both as a solo act and with my band, Almost Nothing, and I anticipate an even busier schedule ahead.

Currently, I rent or borrow an amp for every gig because my practice amp isn't loud enough for live performances. I am requesting funding to purchase a Roland JC 40 amp, which would allow me to perform more frequently. Renting amps, while possible, is not sustainable because long-term fees add up quickly, and borrowing from friends has proven unreliable since they often need their own gear for their shows. Owning a gig-worthy amp would eliminate these limitations, enabling me to play live shows more consistently.

Performing live not only offers a fun and fulfilling way to engage with the Charlottesville community, but it also significantly enhances my skills as a songwriter. Learning new repertoire for my band exposes me to different guitar parts and song structures, which often inspire my own compositions. Additionally, playing with more experienced musicians is deeply inspiring and motivates me to raise my own standards. Lastly, as my improvisational skills on guitar improve, I can more easily translate the ideas in my head into songs, making my writing process more efficient.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities provided by the Miller Arts Foundation, and I sincerely thank you for your consideration.

Timeline:

Late October

1. Receive grant
2. Research used listings for the amp and make final purchase
3. Play with the amp at local venues in Cville such as restaurants on the corner and house shows
4. Play original songs from my Miller Arts Project at smaller venues such as the Fralin

Budget

Item	Price
Roland JC-40 Jazz Chorus 40-Watt Guitar Amplifier with Two 10-Inch Speakers	- \$699.99 Brand New - \$550 - \$699.99 Used
Total Cost	\$550 - \$699.99(The remainder will be covered out of pocket)

* I will buy the amp used only if it is from a reputable vendor and I can test it before buying