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Violin and Viola Equipment Funding Outcome Report

Thank you to the Miller Arts Scholars program for granting me funding to purchase a set of parts for the Ginastera String Quartet No. 1, a set of viola strings, and a shoulder rest. With these resources, I no longer had to worry about equipment issues during chamber music rehearsals and instead could focus and play to the best of my ability on my instruments.

This was a particularly fulfilling semester in chamber music. My string quartet was immediately able to work on individual fingerings and bowings upon receiving our parts and worked on movements 1 and 3 of the Ginastera String Quartet No. 1 throughout the semester. Since we obtained the music early on in the semester, we had some spare time to play through the second movement as well. We were grateful that we each had legible, printed parts, and we had a blast rehearsing and performing the piece. A video of our performance is linked [here](#).

The set of new Evah Pirazzi viola strings and the Bonmusic viola shoulder rest were indispensable to my engagement in my piano quartet chamber music group. Prior to changing my equipment, I had a very difficult time creating a clear and rotund sound on my viola. Due to the strings being rather old, my instrument often slipped out of tune, and a lot of rehearsal time was wasted on tuning my open strings. On the other hand, the shoulder rest had been loosened up from the wear over the years, and I would have to stop in the middle of playing to push it back into position. These problems made it slightly frustrating to play the instrument.

With the new equipment, my intonation and tone production improved drastically. Instead of focusing on issues with my instrument, was also able to practice my own part efficiently. During rehearsals, I could focus much more of my energy on communicating with the other members of my group while playing and coming up with musical ideas that could help improve us as a collective. We were able to work on movements 1 and 3 of the Faure Piano Quartet No. 1, and performed both movements at the chamber music seminar showcase and Tea Time Recital. This was my second semester playing chamber music on the same viola, and my experience with the instrument was undeniably more smooth sailing this time around. As was the case for my other group, my piano quartet thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing together.

I am very grateful for the Miller Arts Scholars Program for providing me with the support and resources to improve on my instruments and achieve my musical goals. I have truly found so much joy playing chamber music at UVa, and I cannot wait to see what the next semester brings. Thank you!