

Artist Minigrant Application

Project Title: Software Purchase for Composition and Sound Engineering

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To the director of the Miller Arts Scholars, Professor Michael Rasbury,

My name is Chuanyuan Liu and I am a third-year double majoring in Music and Statistics with a minor in Economics. I am requesting funding from the Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Program in order to support the cost of the software purchase for a major composition project with Lingxi Chinese Theatre in this academic year.

Lingxi Chinese Theatre (灵犀中文话剧社) is the first and only non-profit Chinese theatre group at the University of Virginia. As a member of Associations of Chinese Theatre (ACT), an alliance of the top student-run Chinese theatre groups in universities across the US, Lingxi Chinese Theatre promotes strong cultural diversity, nurtures and serves as a resource of student talents and, introduces the inner workings of theatrical art to all that are interested.

I have always enjoyed both Chinese drama and American musicals. Yet the lack of music in Chinese drama and the frequent use of music in American musicals make me wonder about the possibility of creating more original music and putting it in Chinese drama without breaking the traditional ambiance and format of the production. Recently I was offered the position of Head Sound Designer in Lingxi and I expressed the idea of adding more musical and artistic interpretations in the production of this academic year. The production group was intrigued by the suggestion and as a result, I will lead and work with three other students in the sound designing crew to finish the project.

In the past few years, I have engaged with melody fragments and have had creative ideas about composition. I have also written a song, *Things I Never Said*, with lyrics filled in by a close friend. However, this will be my first time composing for a major production. Although inspiration is, of course, a requisite factor, composition and sound production software products are just as essential to bringing this project to fruition. With the help of the Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Program, I would be able to purchase the software and serve both the club and myself, not simply as a singer but as a comprehensive artist by working closely as a composer with the production team and other wonderful artists in LingXi.

Anticipated Timeline

- October 2017: Attend meetings with the director, actors, and other production team members to create and set the theme melody of the play
- November 2017 – February 2018: Compose soundtracks that fit different scenes of the production using professional software products including *Ableton pro* and *Sibelius*
- March 2018: Produce a sound cue sheet in accordance with the script
- April 14th and 15th, 2018: Operate the sound board during the performance in accordance to the sound cue sheet

Budget

- *Ableton pro – Live 9* with verified student discount – \$449
- *Sibelius* with verified student discount – \$299
- Total: \$748

While this budget does exceed the \$500 limit on the Art Scholar Minigrant Program, I am willing and able to supplement the remaining \$248 that is not covered with my personal income.