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Renovating My Viola: Outcome Report

The generosity of the Miller Arts Scholars Program has allowed me to use this mini grant to purchase a new bow, greatly improving both the sound of my viola and the range of techniques which I now have accessible. To find a bow, I went to Brobst Violin Shop at the recommendation of my viola teacher Professor Ayn Baliya. I spent around an hour or so looking at the many different bows the shop offered, seeking a price range of up to \$595. After testing each bow on my instrument, I remained split between two options, so I decided to take them home and see how I felt about them in extended practice. Through this process, I decided that the Paulos Buzatto was the best bow for me, and I returned the other bow.

The bow has been a valuable purchase for my improvement as a viola player. Compared to my previous bow, the basic components such as the winding and pad are in much better condition. This can be seen in **Figure 1** in the appendix, which compares my old and new bow. Additionally, one of the biggest reasons I selected this bow was that the tone of it complimented my viola very well. A good violist can bring any technique out of a bow, but the color that each bow has is unique to the structure and build of it. This unchangeable characteristic makes selecting a bow that creates an ideal sound in the ears of the player incredibly important. The bow I picked has just the right amount of warmth for me, and the subtle shifts and changes to color I can access with it greatly enhance the expressivity of my playing. This purchase ended up using the entirety of the mini-grant, so I was unfortunately not able to go to a luthier to have my viola inspected and tuned up. However, the bow was certainly worth the higher cost, so I am still happy with how my expenditures panned out.

This incredibly helpful purchase for my journey as a viola player would not have been possible without the Miller Arts Scholars Program, and I'm greatly appreciative for the generosity of those who run it.

Appendix

Figure 1: My viola, my old bow, and my new bow (left to right)



Table 1: Expenses

Item:	Price:
Paulos Buzatto Viola Bow	\$626.54
Total (tax included):	\$626.54