

Project Title: Renovating My Viola

Project Description:

I've practiced viola actively for around 6 years, and one of the things I've learned over the course of my musical journey is the importance of maintaining every portion of your instrument. Having resonant strings, a properly haired bow, and a well-fitted chin rest elevate a player from good to great sounding. These individual components add up in price over time, so as a result, it's been difficult for me to purchase new equipment as often as I should. In particular, my bow has several major problems. The bow hair has been degrading in quality, the pad has loosened from its adhesive, and the wiring has slowly grown more and more unwound. Replacing this bow will greatly improve the quality of my sound. Additionally, I have not had my viola inspected by a luthier (a stringed instrument maker) in a long time. I believe problems worth fixing have emerged, such as faulty pegs, so I'd like to take my instrument in to be tuned up. Both of these will be necessary for my prospective Distinguished Major Project, since I intend on recording my viola as part of the planned album, and I'd like the highest quality sound from my instrument.

Objectives:

The goal of this proposal is to improve the quality of sound my viola produces for the purposes of live performance and recording. This will be accomplished by achieving these goals:

- Purchasing a new bow from a stringed instrument shop back in northern Virginia
- Bring my viola to a luthier in northern Virginia for inspection to address problems retaining to the various components of the instrument
- Utilize new equipment in recording of my DMP and my studio class performances with Professor Balija in MUPF 2141

Limitations:

In my experience, I've had better results in the use of new viola components when I have the opportunity to try them in person. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of stringed instrument shops in the Charlottesville area, so I will likely have more success finding the bow I'm searching for in northern Virginia. This means that in the circumstance where I receive funding, I won't necessarily be able to purchase my equipment immediately after. Instead, I'll pair a visit home with time to purchase the CodaBow, as well as to see a luthier to repair my tuning pegs and conduct any other necessary maintenance.

Statement of Need:

To complete this project, I will need to purchase a new bow and have my instrument inspected. These are necessary for the following reasons:

- A good bow gives a brighter, more focused sound
- Good bows allow more control and agility in playing
- Having properly fitted pegs increases stability of tuning in strings
- Having a well aligned chin rest reduces tension in the player, leading to a better sound

- All of the above are important to ensure all recordings on my prospective DMP project, as well as any performances I have under Professor Balijs, sound as rich and high quality as possible

Schedule for Completion:

March 14-17 – Funding Received

March 18-20* – Go to northern Virginia, find a store which sells the CodaBow Prodigy, purchase bow and bring in viola to luthier for inspection

April 18-22 — Final performance at conclusion of MUPF 2141

*The weekend in which I do this is flexible, so if funding has not been received by this point, I would reschedule it to the following weekend until money had been transferred.

Budget:

Item	Quantity	Price	Description
CodaBow Prodigy (Viola Model)	1	\$395.00	Carbon-fibre bow with a Xebony frog; Designed for student players of every level.
Viola Inspection/Tune Up	1	\$100.00	Will likely involve peg replacement (~\$80), chin rest replacement (~\$20), etc. Price is variable depending on if further problems are found.
Total (Tax not included)	N/A	\$495.00	