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Continued Studio Improvement: Outcome Report

Because of the Miller Arts Scholars program and its generosity, I was able to purchase several items to improve the recording capabilities and portability of my studio setup. To buy the bass guitar, I took a trip to Music & Arts in Charlottesville, where I was able to test several different models within my allotted budget. Listening to tone and playing passages to test handling, I eventually settled on the Sterling StringRay (seen in **Figure 1** in the appendix). This instrument both played great and had a tone I imagined I'd prefer in a live setting. Any sorts of qualms I had with the tone in a recorded context could always be fixed in the mixing process. This instrument has already inspired several new musical explorations, and I am excited to continue both honing my skills and creating new works with this instrument.

I also purchased a new, smaller MIDI keyboard controller. This purchase has also been very helpful in my music making process. In the past, I'd struggled to articulate some of my musical ideas while on the go, since the piano function in Logic, which relies on the built-in keyboard, is functionally limited. My main avenue to explore musical ideas when composing is a keyboard, so this constraint was difficult to deal with. Now, however, I bring my keyboard with me to most places, so that I can more effectively and efficiently express whatever musical ideas I have in my brain at a given time.

Within my initial budget, I'd failed to consider the need for both a gig bag to carry/protect the electric bass around and a strap to play the instrument while standing. This meant that I unfortunately did not have the funds to purchase new viola strings. However, I am very happy with the purchases that I made, as they've already improved my ability to create varied and interesting music, whether at home or on the go. This all would not have been possible without the Miller Arts Scholars program, and I am incredibly grateful to have been allowed this opportunity through the generosity of those who run it.

Appendix

Figure 1: The Sterling Stingray I purchased, along with the strap.



Table 1: Expenses

Item:	Price:
Sterling By Music Man StingRay RAY4 Bass Guitar	\$349.99

Road Runner Avenue II Acoustic Guitar Gig Bag Black	\$59.99
Joe Satriani Polyester Swivel Guitar Strap	\$27.99
Novation Launchkey Mini MK3 25-key Keyboard Controller	\$99.99
Tax	\$28.51
Total (tax included):	\$556.47