

Cassie Lipton

2/6/2023

Arts Scholar 4th Year Award Application

Faculty Member: Kelly Sulick

### Exploring Music in the Birthplace of Jazz

As I enter my fourth and final year of study at UVA, I am beginning to prepare for my Spring 2024 flute recital that will be the culmination of my musical studies and my participation in the Performance Concentration as well as (pending acceptance) the Distinguished Major Program. I have decided that my concert will be entirely composed of living composers and invoke a wide variety of musical styles, with the pieces I am currently considering including Flamenco, African Tribal, and Asian styles, a Korean folktale, and more. I want my recital to be a celebration of these many cultures, and to be sure that I am not tokenizing them in any way. Over the course of my fourth year, I will do independent study to create program notes for this concert, which I hope will include interviews with as many of the composers that will respond to me as well as information about the pieces themselves.

In addition to my work as a flute player, throughout my time at UVA I have taken advantage of many opportunities the music department has had to offer in terms of my electives. I have taken or am in the process of taking *Songwriting*, *Writing Rap*, *Composing Mixtapes*, *Introduction to Music and Computers*, and *The Music Business: Past and Future*. I spent two semesters in a jazz combo with Jeff Decker exploring the genre of jazz as well as saxophone, my secondary instrument. It has meant a lot to me to be able to expand my variety of musical experiences, and as I approach my final year, I would like to do something that enhances not just my flute playing but enriches my wide variety of musical interests.

As a result, I would like to request funding to travel to New Orleans in the Summer of 2023. Known as “the birthplace of jazz,” New Orleans has long been a hotspot and melting pot for musical creativity and a variety of musical cultures. During the first week of August, I would like to attend at least one of New Orleans’s 130+ annual music festivals and attend a variety of concerts and live musical experiences across the city. I am tentatively thinking of the Satchmo Summerfest, which takes place on August 5th and 6th in celebration of Louis Armstrong and has featured many exciting acts such as Preservation Brass and the Secret Six Jazz Band. In addition to this festival, I would like to attend shows at many of New Orleans’ most famous venues, such as Preservation Hall and Snug Harbor. While I do not know what specific acts will be playing at the venues this far in advance, it is assured that they are of high quality and admission seems pretty standard across acts (in terms of budgeting).

Since I am going to be a fourth year and could soon be seeking jobs in the performing arts, I would also like to interview professional musicians about their experiences and how they

got their foot in the door for their careers, since the job market for professional musicians is extremely competitive.

To show a tangible outcome for this project and track my progress, I will record myself playing a flute piece that I have enjoyed listening to and fits the theme of this project, *A Night in New Orleans* by Eric Ewazen. This piece is described as “a tour-de-force: a 12-minute work for solo flute which is at once a three-movement sonatine, a colorful travelogue, a venture into New Orleans jazz and zydeco styles, and a showcase for the flutist's versatility and endurance.” I will record it before and after the trip in order to see which areas I have improved based on the knowledge I have gained throughout my travels. In my outcome report I will include both recordings as well as a written summary of what I changed based on what I learned in New Orleans.

I sincerely thank the Miller Arts Scholars for their consideration of my proposal.

Timeline:

June-July: Learn and record “*A Night In New Orleans*” by Eric Ewazen

Early August: Travel to New Orleans

Late August-October: Work with mentor Kelly Sulick to apply the skills and knowledge I have learned within my private lessons. Re-record Ewazen.

October- March 2024: Use the skills I have gained to enhance the pieces I will perform on my Senior Recital.

<b>Expense Type</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description/Details</b>
Flight with Delta	\$400	\$351 round trip + anticipated taxes, fees, and cost fluctuations
Hotel	\$1100	\$171 per night + anticipated taxes and fees
Transport to Hotel from Airport	\$50	In all likelihood I will have to take an Uber or Taxi
Floor Seating at Preservation Hall	\$50	Jazz Act
Satchmo Summerfest Tickets	\$30	\$15 per day for two days
Per Diem	\$434.50	Meals/Incidentals
Other nightly concerts	\$200	Potentially New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro
Educational Purchases	\$500	Books, lessons, Louisiana Music Factory, other

Unforeseen costs	\$235.50	I expect hotel costs could jump by the time I get grant approval
<b>Total</b>	\$3,000	

## Participation in the Arts

### Classes:

Chamber Ensemble (Jazz with Jeff Decker) (MUEN 3630)- Fall 2020, Spring 2021  
 Performance (Woodwinds) (MUPF 2151)- Fall 2020  
 Poetry Writing (ENCW 2300)- Spring 2021  
 Orchestra (MUEN 3610)- Spring 2021 (enrolled), Fall 2020 (participated)  
 Advanced Performance (Woodwinds) (MUPF 3150)- Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022  
 Keyboard Skills (Beginning) (MUSI 2302) -Spring 2021  
 Studies in 19th Century Music (MUSI 3030)- Spring 2021  
 College Arts Scholars Seminar (CASS 1010/1011)- Fall 2021, Spring 2022  
 Marching Band II (MUBD 2620)- Fall 2021  
 Theory I (MUSI 3310)- Fall 2021  
 Chamber Ensemble (MUEN 3630) (Flute Ensemble)- Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023  
 Music and Discourse Since 1900 (MUSI 3050)- Spring 2022  
 Musicianship II (MUSI 3334)- Spring 2022  
 Performance Concentration I (MUPF 3950)- Fall 2022  
 Songwriting (MUSI 3370)- Fall 2022  
 Writing Rap (MUSI 3372)- Fall 2022  
 Performance Concentration Seminar (MUSI 4950)- Fall 2022, Spring 2023  
 Performance Concentration II (MUPF 3960)- Spring 2023  
 Composing Mixtapes (MUSI 3374)- Spring 2023  
 Intro to Music and Computers (MUSI 3390)- Spring 2023  
 The Music Business: Past and Future (MUSI 4559)- Spring 2023

### **Extracurriculars:**

Washington Literary Society and Debating Union (published in literary magazine Fall 2021, Provisional Membership chair in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)

Rocky Horror Picture Show shadowcast performer (ensemble, Fall 2022; main cast, Spring 2023)

### **Other:**

Miller Arts Mini-Grant Recipient: Fall 2021, Fall 2022  
 Miller Arts 3rd Year Arts Award