

Cassie Lipton

3/10/2022

Arts Scholar Rising Third-Year Award Application

Faculty Member: Kelly Sulick

National Flute Association Convention 2022

Throughout my eight years playing the flute, I have had the opportunity of competing in, playing in, or attending several flute conventions, including, most recently, the Mid-Atlantic Flute convention. Thanks partly to the generous funding of the Miller Arts Scholar program, I performed as a Guest Artist Masterclass Performer. In this highly educational experience, I learned from flutist Marianne Gedigian about better air techniques and how to make my playing more expressive. I also attended sessions in which I heard the most innovative and cutting-edge flute techniques, as well as just some stellar performances all around. For many years, I have wanted to attend the National Flute Association Convention, which would involve a similar kind of rich educational experience, but on a much larger scale. This year's convention is being held at the Hilton Downtown in Chicago, Illinois, and for my rising third-year arts award, I would love to request funding to be able to attend this convention.

I have auditioned for the Collegiate Flute Choir at the NFA Convention. While I will not find out if I have been accepted until early April (after this grant proposal is due), I think that attending this convention would be extremely useful regardless of whether I am accepted into the choir or not. The National Flute Association boasts over 3,000 members, and the 2021 convention had more than 55 performances and 30 lectures, panels, or workshops. The wealth of knowledge contained here is enormous. The fact that this is the 50th anniversary convention means that there are also special events, such as a Flute Ensemble Festival where many talented flute ensembles will perform. Particularly in light of the pandemic, in which the music industry was heavily impacted, I hope to go listen to live performances and be able to meet flute players from all over the world. I spend a lot of time playing music by composers that have been long dead, and I look forward to finding out what living flute players are doing and creating within our artistic sphere. This will also be a fantastic networking event for professional opportunities.

The convention runs from August 11-14. I would like to arrive on the 10th and depart on the 15th to make sure I am able to attend the convention in its entirety. Considering the train ride would be 28 hours, and the NFA offers flight discounts, I would like to request funds for a flight from my home in North Carolina (where I will be at this point in the summer) to O'Hare airport in Chicago. I would then take public transport to the Hilton Downtown Chicago, where the convention is held. I would stay at this hotel in a 1 bed, 1 bath room at the rate listed on the NFA website. I have included the Per Diem rate multiplied by the number of days for Chicago according to the General Services Administration website. Then, there is the cost of registration for the convention itself.

There are many exhibitors at the convention. The 2021 convention featured over 30, including flute vendors, as well as creators selling flute books, sheet music, and even classes on reducing pain caused by playing music. I request \$500 for the purpose of getting the kind of educational materials that may only be available at this kind of event. My faculty advisor says that they often have exclusive sheet music at a discount, and that there are sometimes opportunities at the convention to take private lessons from accomplished flutists. Additionally, my flute is slightly overdue for a routine maintenance check, so I would like to ask the Miller Arts Scholars to fund me taking my flute to a specialist to ensure that it is in top condition when I attend the convention. Finally, since I am traveling to a large city for several days, I request a small sum for unforeseen costs.

To show a tangible outcome for this project and track my progress, I will record myself playing a piece that will be heavily featured at the convention, likely from the Young Artists competition so I can hear it played by multiple people. I will record it before and after attending the convention in order to see which areas I have improved based on the knowledge I have gained at the convention. As someone who listens to a lot of random recordings on YouTube when learning pieces, I would like to find at least 5 “staple” flutists who I can learn from by listening extensively to their work. I will find these flutists by either hearing them at the convention or getting recommendations from other flute players I encounter at the convention. So much can be learned by studying great artists. In my outcome report I will include both recordings as well as a written summary of what I changed based on the flutists I heard at the convention.

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

Timeline:

May 2022: Start work on convention piece and record it.

Summer 2022 (August 10th-15th): Attend the National Flute Association Convention in Chicago, Illinois

Fall 2022: Work with mentor Kelly Sulick to apply the skills and knowledge I have learned within my private lessons. Re-record convention piece.

Spring 2022: Use the skills I have acquired to apply for other flute competitions, and continue to improve my performance skills.

Expense Type	Cost	Description/Details
Flight with Delta	\$350	Discount from event organizers. \$296 round trip + anticipated taxes, fees, and cost fluctuations
Hotel	\$1075	\$195 per night + anticipated taxes and fees
Convention Registration	\$150	\$135 student registration + anticipated taxes and fees
Public Transport to Hotel from Airport	\$15	\$5 each way, + anticipated taxes and fees
Per Diem	\$434.50	Meals/Incidentals
Educational Purchases from Exhibit Hall	\$500	Books, Flute maintenance and accessory items, lessons
Flute Repairs	\$300	Estimate by faculty advisor
Unforeseen costs	\$176.50	
Total	\$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

Music and Discourse Since 1900 (MUSI 3050)- Spring 2022

Musicianship II (MUSI 3334)- Spring 2022

Extracurriculars:

Washington Literary Society and Debating Union (published in literary magazine Fall 2021)

Other:

Miller Arts Mini-Grant Recipient: Fall 2021