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Spring Minigrant Proposal

Fund for Essential Compositional Tools

Project Overview

During my first semester as a Miller Arts Scholar I have tried my best to use the resources of this program to grow as an artist. In the fall I was awarded a minigrant that allowed me to take lessons with a variety of musicians and purchase important reed making equipment. Through the connections I've made in the Miller Arts Scholar seminar I have begun to work as a composer on several interdisciplinary projects and am currently writing scores for two short films made by Arts Scholars this semester. Through my compositional work with other Arts Scholars, with the jazz ensemble, and in my composition classes I have realized that composition is something I am good at and right now I am seriously considering pursuing it as a career.

The area of composition that I am most interested in is writing scores for film and theatre. In the past month I have met with Professor Rasbury several times to try and make a game plan for how to manage my current composition projects, grow as a composer, and start planning for a future career in the field. Through our discussions I have learned that what I require most right now is equipment for both my short term and long term professional needs. If awarded this minigrant I plan on using this money for my short term compositional needs including purchasing Logic Pro, an audio interface, and a mic. Having this equipment will significantly enhance my ability to complete my current projects planned for later this semester and early this summer. I plan on talking further with Professor Rasbury this month to plan for an artist award proposal that will cover some of my more long term compositional needs as I continue to pursue a career in composition for the visual arts.

List of and Significance of All Requested Equipment

Logic Pro

In order to write a wide range of quality music for low budget films, like most student productions, I have to be able to produce my own music. Producing the music I write requires two skills: being able to record the live instruments I play (guitar and bassoon) in a professional manner and being able to digitally realize scores that I have written for other instruments that I do not play. Both of these tasks can be accomplished with Logic Pro.

Having Logic Pro would allow me to set up my own recording studio in my bedroom and would also provide me with a wide range of sound libraries with which to digitally realize the music I write. This software would allow me to write orchestral compositions that could be performed by my computer and shown in films. I've talked to Professor Rasbury about other DAWs and also Mark Graham who owns the recording studio *The Sound* in Charlottesville and have come to the understanding that Logic Pro is the best valued software to fulfill my needs.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/logic-pro-x/id634148309?mt=12>

Focusrite Scarlett Solo 3rd Gen USB Audio Interface

In order to use Logic Pro effectively in a recording capacity I need to be able to record sounds to my computer. This can be best achieved with a USB audio interface. Having an audio interface will allow me to directly input my guitar into my computer and have what I am playing on my guitar show up on my computer screen as an audio file. Being able to do this will dramatically improve the speed I am able to compose. Right now when I write I input all the individual notes with my keyboard and trackpad. This audio interface will allow me to just play the notes and have the computer record everything for me. I compared several interfaces on the internet and I have found that this particular interface is the best for my needs pertaining to recording of guitar and bassoon.

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/ScarSG3--focusrite-scarlett-solo-3rd-gen-usb-audio-interface>

sE Electronics sE7 Small-diaphragm Condenser Microphone

In order to use my USB Audio Interface to record my bassoon and acoustic guitar I need a microphone. Through my research on the internet I have found that the best mics for acoustic instruments are small-diaphragm condenser microphones. This particular microphone is the best microphone that matches my recording needs and my budget constraints.

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/sE7--se-electronics-se7-small-diaphragm-condenser-microphone>

Budget

Expense	Approximate Cost
Logic Pro	\$200
USB Audio Interface	\$100
Small-Diaphragm Condenser Microphone	\$200
Total	\$500

Conclusion

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities that Miller Arts Scholars has given me and know that these funds will most certainly help me grow as an artist. I look forward to hearing from the committee and thank you so much for your time and consideration.