

MIDI Controller/Synthesizer Proposal

Project Summary:

Next year, I plan on completing a Distinguished Major in Music by working on a new album centered around technology's exponential encroachment into every facet of our daily lives. Sonically, I want the album to be far more electronic than what I have produced in the past, and I want a greater degree of control over the sounds themselves. At the same time, my band Krispies has concluded that in order to continue leveling up our overall sound, the next step is to get our keyboardist a better keyboard. The one that he uses currently is limited to only 5 different sounds to choose from, which means that on many songs, we have to settle for a timbre that may not be exactly what we want from the keys.

In order to kill two birds with one stone, I am hoping to purchase an instrument that will serve as both a synthesizer and a MIDI controller. A synthesizer is an electronic instrument (in my case, one that has keys) that can produce an array of sounds through combining different frequencies and shaping their envelopes. This is what would replace the keyboard we have now for live performance. A MIDI controller is a device that sends Musical Instrument Digital Interface information to a digital audio workstation in order to trigger specific sounds. The one that I used previously for production was very small (only 2 octaves of keys) and recently no longer works.

After doing lots of research, the Roland Go: Keys 5 appears to be the perfect device that can act as both synthesizer and MIDI controller to help me grow as a band member and producer. It has two quarter inch stereo outputs so it will have no trouble being used as a live keyboard that connects to the band's mixer during gigs to be heard by the crowd. It has 61 keys which means 4 octaves of notes, and over 1,000 sounds to choose from. This will come in handy for my keyboardist, as he will now have so much more freedom over what he sounds like and will be able to fit specific songs' needs much better. Additionally, the keyboard is capable of sending MIDI information to my computer and allows the user to create and shape their own sounds, two features I hope to use quite heavily while working on my upcoming album. Since my old MIDI controller has been broken, I have been inputting all MIDI data to my computer by hand, so having a keyboard again (and a much bigger one at that) to do this would help me be much more expressive.

This investment would be massively beneficial for not just one, but two major musical outlets that I have. It truly would fix two large issues I am currently dealing with through one purchase, and I would be particularly excited to start experimenting more within the electronic sound realm. I would be very grateful for the support of Miller Arts to fund this purchase.

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Spring 2024
Arts Scholars Arts Minigrants

Timeline:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Objective</i>
Spring 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Receive mini grant to purchase new keyboard- Play remaining gigs with band using new keyboard
Summer 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Start experimenting on keyboard to find sounds that can be used in DMP album
2025-2026 school year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue to use keyboard in live band settings and use it as a main foundation for the sounds used in DMP album

Budget:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Roland Go: Keys 5 https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/GOKEYS5WH--roland-gokeys-5-keyboard-white	499.99
Total	499.99