

Kiana Pilson

Miller Arts Dance Scholar

Minigrant Outcome Statement

Enhancing Dance Through Music

Thank you to the Miller family and the Miller Arts Faculty Advisory Committee for supporting my pursuit of interdisciplinary art. I applied for this minigrant to purchase and begin learning to play the acoustic guitar. My ultimate goal is to apply these skills in exploring non-traditional methods of dance and music composition, resulting in a dance/guitar piece by the spring of my fourth year. Since being funded, I have been able to purchase all the materials (or some equivalent) listed in my initial budget. While I had to start guitar lessons later than planned – due to coronavirus-related setbacks – I now attend lessons weekly on Zoom with a teacher from Music & Arts. (In the fall, I will switch to taking lessons at UVA, through McIntire’s music program.) As expected, picking up a new instrument comes with challenges. However, I am already excited about the connections I am beginning to draw between music and my dance studies.

While I am still learning the basics of the guitar, I hope to generate a few strategies by the end of the summer to compose my final dance/guitar piece. For instance, I have already been brainstorming a score (i.e. a framework to create and/or describe an artistic work) that relies heavily on tempo. A rough draft of this score is listed below:

- Create three musical phrases that vary either in speed or time signature.
- Have three dancers choreograph their own solo movement phrase, assigning each a speed/tempo that corresponds with one of the musical phrases. Do not let the dancers hear the musical phrases prior to choreographing their movement phrases.
- Layer the musical phrases with the movement choreography. Try different combinations of the phrases to explore both harmony/disharmony and juxtaposition.

I plan to use the scores I brainstorm over the summer, along with the compositional strategies I have learned through the dance program, to build my dance/guitar piece by the spring of 2021.

Note on Concerns and Limitations:

I predict that it may be challenging to complete this project if coronavirus continues to be a threat in the 2021 spring semester. The inability to gather dancers and to make physical contact would shape how my dance/guitar piece is composed and performed. Yet, I am hopeful that if live performance is not possible, I could explore other formats for this piece (such as a long-distance or solo dance film).

Actual Timeline

- April 2020: Received Minigrant Award; Purchased Guitar Materials
- May 2020: Registered For Guitar Lessons
- June 2020: Began Guitar Lessons

Expenses

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|---|---------------|
| Yamaha FG800 Folk Acoustic Guitar..... | 199.99 |
| Kyser Quick-Change Capo 6-String Black..... | 19.95 |
| DeltaLab CT-30 Clip-On Tuner..... | 19.98 |
| Sales Tax..... | 16.80 |
| Subtotal 1..... | 256.72 |

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|---|--------------|
| Ibanez POWERPAD Acoustic Guitar Gig Bag..... | 49.99 |
| Dunlop PVP 101 Light/Medium Pick Variety (12 pack)..... | 2.99 |
| Sales Tax..... | 3.71 |
| Subtotal 2..... | 56.69 |

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| TIMBREGEAR Comfort Acoustic Guitar Strap..... | 15.95 |
| Lessons Through June..... | 186.00 |
| Subtotal 3..... | 201.95 |

TOTAL.....515.36

Personal funds were used to cover expenses exceeding the \$500 award amount.