

Lauren Schmidt
Miller Arts Scholar, Class of 2022

Viola Performance Enhancement Project Outcome

Thank you to the Miller Arts Scholars program for the receipt of an artist minigrant to fund the purchase of a new viola bow and other tools for my studies in viola performance at the University of Virginia. Although I have only been in the Arts Scholars program for a short period of time, this organization has already made an immense impact on myself as an artist and on my future musical endeavors.

At the recommendation of my teachers, I decided to purchase a half cake rosin instead of the full cake I was originally planning on purchasing. This decision is meant to help the overall effectiveness of rosin, as the chemical composition of rosin changes over time. By buying only a half-cake, I'm not wasting any rosin that will become ineffective as time goes on. The rosin I purchased was perfect for my viola and makes tone production much more natural. I chose a dark rosin, which is generally stickier and helps to grip the string. The shoulder rest I had chosen ended up costing less than originally predicted. Because the total cost of the rosin and the shoulder rest was less than the proposed cost, I was able to purchase a cleaning cloth and also pay for a one-week trial of a few bows I was considering.

Because of precautions with COVID-19 and price factors, I decided to look into purchasing a carbon fiber viola bow as opposed to testing a number of wood bows from my local atelier. Carbon fiber bows are more durable and generally less expensive. I decided to purchase a carbon fiber bow from CodaBow, which is one of the most prominent makers of carbon fiber bows on the market. I chose two bows, the Diamond GX and the Diamond SX, to test for a week before making a decision. I am currently in the process of testing the two viola bows and will play them for one of my music teachers in a lesson over winter break before making a final decision in January. Although I haven't decided on a bow yet, the experience of testing different bows and finding what works for myself as a musician has been very helpful. I haven't tested out bows in a number of years so quickly trialing bows and testing their capabilities has been a skill I've been able to work on through this experience.

Without the generous support of the Miller Arts Scholars program, an upgrade of my music equipment and the purchase of a new viola bow would not have been possible. I am looking forward to utilizing all of this equipment in the coming months as I work with my chamber groups on upcoming performances. Thank you!

Budget Outcome

Cleaning Cloth	\$3.19
Cecilia Solo Viola Half Cake Rosin	\$18.40
Mach One V-16 Viola Shoulder Rest	\$23.99
CodaBow Trial Fee	\$35
Viola Bow	\$419.42
Total	\$500