

Lauren Schmidt
Miller Arts Scholar, Class of 2022

Violin Resources Funding Outcome Report

Thank you to the Miller Arts Scholars program for the receipt of an artist minigrant to fund the purchase of a variety of violin resources for my studies in violin performance at the University of Virginia. This grant and the Miller Arts Scholars program have been able to make a significant impact on myself as an artist and on my future musical endeavors.

I purchased the resources I had proposed shortly after receiving the funding I had applied for. The string set I had proposed getting increased in price between the proposal and the actual buying process, so to account for the difference in price I decided not to purchase the Bartok sheet music. Although it would have been nice to have a better-quality copy of this piece, the copy I currently use is sufficient, and purchasing new strings was more important to me. I decided to buy a chinrest tightener because I had some of the grant money left over after purchasing everything else. This tool allows me to loosen and tighten the chinrest that attaches to my violin. This proved to be very useful, as I changed the model of my chinrest shortly after buying the chinrest tightener. This made the process of testing new chinrests much easier.

The combination of changing my strings to the Eva Pirazzi custom string set, replacing my old shoulder rest with the KorfkerRest shoulder rest, and switching my chin rest using the chinrest tightener impacted the sound of my violin in a way I cannot put into words. It truly has been a life-changing adjustment that has increased the projection and improved the tone quality of my instrument. As mentioned in my initial proposal, I had been dealing with an issue with my D string not sounding for a few months. The combination of these adjustments completely fixed the problem, and playing on that string in particular is much easier and sounds much better now. The new shoulder rest has given me more comfort and flexibility in my playing, while also helping my overall posture. Because the shoulder rest is wood, I was able to reshape the shoulder rest to best fit my shoulder, something that most shoulder rests cannot do because they are made of plastic. Having an essentially custom-shaped shoulder rest has proven to be invaluable for my comfort in holding and playing the instrument.

Since beginning to utilize these resources, I have given successful solo and chamber recitals, and was also recently accepted into the Distinguished Major Project program within the Music Department and will be giving a Distinguished Major violin recital on March 26, 2022. The resources I have been able to purchase with this grant have led to so many wonderful performances and opportunities. Without the generous support of the Miller Arts Scholars program, an upgrade of my violin resources would not have been possible. I am looking forward to utilizing all of this equipment over the next year as I prepare for my fourth-year recital as well as other upcoming performances. Thank you!

Budget Outcome

KorfkerRest Violin Shoulder Rest	\$351.19
Eva Pirazzi Custom String Set	\$76.99
Peak Black Stand	\$34.99
Chinrest Tightener	\$2.99
Tax from Shar Music Website	\$24.71
Total	\$490.87