

Michael McNulty  
Rising Fourth-Year Award Outcome  
Faculty Advisor: John D'earth  
**Funds Towards Distinguished Major Recital In Music**

*Project Outcome*

Overview of Proposal:

Last spring I was awarded an arts award of \$3000 from the Miller Arts Scholars Program toward purchasing a new guitar and purchasing lessons to prepare for my Distinguished Music Major Recital. As outlined in my proposal, in the jazz world most guitarists play on a guitar called a hollow body guitar. These instruments have a resonant cavity and f-holes like a violin, producing a much richer and warmer sound. The Fender guitar I previously played on is a solid bodied guitar and is suited for powerful rock music rather than the sensitive jazz playing I usually perform.

On March 31, 2023 I will perform my UVA Music Distinguished Major Recital. As part of my grant proposal I also requested money for lessons to prepare for this recital with the plan of using the new guitar at this concert. My original budget was \$2000 for the guitar, and \$1000 in lessons which would cover weekly lessons over the summer (\$100 each). I chose UVA jazz faculty John D'earth as my advisor for this project. John is very well connected to professional jazz guitarists, knowledgeable about purchasing instruments that will last a career, and is also the advisor for my recital.

Overview of Project:

Professor D'earth and I talked extensively about how best to spend the money granted to me on this project. Together we identified that there were really two goals in mind: the first was to get a professional jazz guitar, ideally one that would last me my whole career. The second goal was to help me prepare for my recital. We decided that in terms of what was accomplished in this project, the first goal of getting me a high quality instrument should be most important because an instrument would last me my whole life whereas a recital was just one concert.

First, Professor D'earth put me in touch with two accomplished jazz guitarists whose guitar sound I liked. I took a single lesson with each of these people, Adam Larrabee and Chris Morrison, in addition to my guitar mentor from high school Ron Petrides. In my lesson each gave me different approaches on how to best prepare for my recital and also gave me recommendations of guitar stores to check out where I may have been able to find a good instrument. All of their recommendations were in the New York City area.

When I was home in Connecticut for the summer I went to all of the places Adam, Chris and Ron suggested. Ron Petrides accompanied me as I shopped and together we tried almost every available high quality jazz guitar in the tristate area. Ron is very knowledgeable about guitar manufacturing and after playing each guitar with me we came to the conclusion that the new 2022 Gibson 335 from Guitar Center in NYC was by far the best instrument.

I had originally planned on spending \$2000 on a guitar and the instrument I picked out was way out of my budget at \$3800 (tax included). After talking further with Professor D'earth we decided it would be best to spend all of my grant money on the instrument instead of taking consistent lessons with any of these people. I paid the difference out of my savings and also had the guitar professionally set up by the luthier Norio Imai in NYC, on recommendation of Ron.

I am very happy with how my new guitar sounds and gig with it regularly. Below is a link to a recording session I recently did with Miller Arts Scholars alum Tina Hashemi that showcases the instrument. I am incredibly grateful to this life changing opportunity that the Miller Arts Scholars program has offered me and will cherish this instrument throughout my career.

Note: In terms of arranging lessons with Doug Richards in my proposal, I met with Doug over the summer and we have decided to postpone regular lessons until a later date. All of the arrangements for my recital have been written with the help of Professor D'earth.

*Final Budget*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
New Gibson 335 manufactured in 2022	\$3,800 (tax included)
Guitar Setup	\$200
Adam Larrabee Lesson	\$60
Ron Petrides Lesson	\$100
Chris Morrison Lesson	\$80
<b>Total</b>	\$4,240 (I paid \$1,240 out of pocket)

*Pictures of Guitar*



*Recording Link*

**WXTJ Jamz with Tina Hashemi:**

In this recording I showcase the sound of my new guitar by accompanying Tina Hashemi (vocals) on 3 jazz standards:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhSXOr-TZAs>