

**David Harris Flaherty Undergraduate Library Scholarship 2023 Recipient**  
**By Bella (Nhien) Nguyen, Faculty of Fine Arts**  
**Award-winning Essay**

My summer research is based on the collaboration between performers and composers in the creation of music pieces and strives to express my identity as a Vietnamese woman in music. As such, I spend copious amounts of time in the library not only printing music pieces, but also researching composers whose identities were suppressed and performers of ethnic background, such as Mark Takeshi McGregor. The library music archives allow me to reference scores from these composers and papers or journal articles that document the performer's life and challenges. An example would be pieces from the composer Saariaho, an extremely talented woman composer from Finland who advocates for equality for women in the music industry, or the composer I-Sang Yung, a native Korean who identifies as German seeing as his home country kidnapped him from Berlin and tortured him under the accusation of espionage. All this research was done to establish a sense of solidarity in my works with my composers as we attempt to express life as people that belong to certain minority groups. It was especially poignant for me as I strive to portray my pride in my own heritage. Additionally, because my research is founded on the inherent collaboration between composers and performers, the research I was able to do through the library resources gave me a voice. I procured scores from obscure composers, printed musical examples and debates, and other reference materials from the library to bring to meetings which allowed my voice to stand strong. It is only through the work that goes into sustaining the library's resources that allowed me to access such quality research materials and create flute pieces that attempt to highlight the difficulties of identity and one's role in society.

Furthermore, the resources found at the library did not only aid my research, but it also supported my development as a flutist. There exists a plethora of books in the library's catalogue whose contents taught me about how to improve my performance. For example, *Body Mapping for Flutists* by Lea Parsons increased my body awareness and taught me how best to utilize my body as a performer while *The Inner Game of Music* by Barry Green addressed performance anxiety. I would not have improved as drastically as I did if it were not for these books, and the library facilitated it as without it, I would not have been able to access these books due to financial constraints.

Therefore, I used the library resources, such as the printers, the music archives, and the books in the library's catalogue, to support my summer research project that seeks to represent different minority groups and to support my development as a flutist.