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Judith Clark Memorial Fellowship
To the Trustees,

On the 24th January, with the support of the Judith Clark Memorial Fellowship, I travelled to the United States to undertake a number of auditions for violin postgraduate study. The funds from this Fellowship contributed towards flights, accommodation and living expenses for the duration of my stay in the US which was about five and a half weeks.

I did five auditions for music institutions in the US, namely the New England Conservatory of Music, the Yale School of Music, the Colburn Conservatory of Music, the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School of Music. I also did two auditions for music institutions in London; the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, both of which I auditioned for in New York. The results from these auditions are still being decided, except for the Royal College of Music which I have already received an offer of place from.

I am so grateful to the Judith Clark Memorial Fund for enabling this trip and I am very hopeful of a positive outcome from the auditions. Not only was it valuable in terms of enabling me to audition for all these different institutions, it also gave me confidence in a number of personal development areas. I negotiated a great deal of travel within the US using a combination of the New York Metro, Uber, Amtrak trains, Interstate coach services, as well as flying from New York to Los Angeles for one of the auditions.

What I found particularly valuable was the chance to perform in high pressure situations at the many auditions I undertook. I believe I performed very well at most of the auditions and by doing a good number of auditions it gave me the opportunity of really getting in the groove of performing under high pressure.

All of the audition panels I played to comprised world-famous performers and teachers, and almost all of these auditions resulted in me being called back for a subsequent call back lesson with an audition panel member to further assess my suitability for study. And now, as earlier mentioned, I await results from these auditions, all of which I should hear about by the 1st of April.

It is a major undertaking, both in terms of personal and financial commitment to embark on such an audition tour, and without the assistance of the Judith Clark Memorial Fund I would have found this very difficult to follow through with. As such, I am very grateful to the Trustees.

I will keep you informed of how it all develops in the next few months.

With best regards,



Lauren Bennett