

Rockley Family Foundation Scholarship

2019-2020 Scholarship Report



**ILONA
KLOSOWSKA**

Major: Music

Academic Year: Senior

Expected Graduation: 2020

Hometown: Elmhurst, New York

Dear Mr. Rockley,

I would like to personally thank you for your generosity in funding the Rockley Foundation Scholarship and express my deepest gratitude for your financial support. I am very honored and delighted to be the recipient of this award that allows me to pursue a higher education at Baruch College and make good use of numerous opportunities offered by this business school.

I am currently in my senior year majoring in Management of Musical Enterprises and I plan to graduate in spring of 2020. Because of my passion for music and determination of reaching my goals, I have been able to consistently maintain a GPA of 3.79 while working actively to support myself.

When I immigrated from Poland to the United States years ago, I encountered many obstacles to enter college again and continue my higher education. After years of financial planning, I consider myself very fortunate to be able to attend Baruch College, which offers one of the finest programs in the country.

I have gained the access to enormous educational and social opportunities that have fostered my curiosity and creativity. During my years at Baruch, I have also met inspiring professors who have greatly impacted my life. Joining the Music Industry Club and reaching out to fellow students has given me a chance to enrich my knowledge and understanding of my major and future career.

At this stage, I am an intern at BiCoastal Productions LLC, an NYC-based entertainment agency where I take advantage of the opportunity to gain some experience and expertise in the music industry. My future plan is to complete a major in Management of Musical Enterprises the next year and pursue a career in the entertainment industry right after graduation.

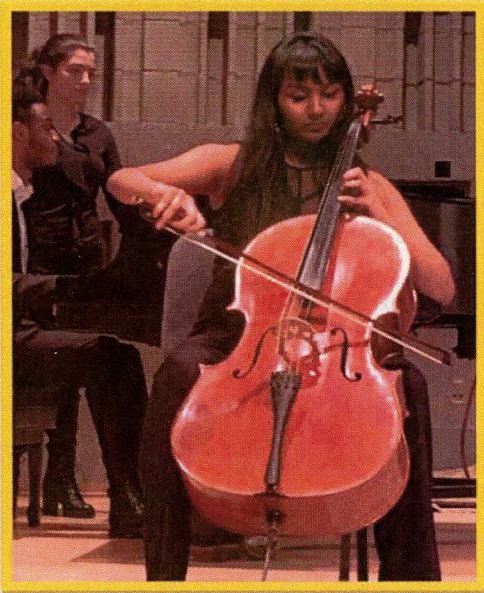
Once again, thank you for your act of kindness that has made the huge difference in my life. By awarding me the Rockley Family Foundation Scholarship, you have been helping me overcome my financial difficulties and complete the last year of my studies.

I hope, in return one day, I will be able to give back and help others fulfill their dreams and achieve their goals the same way you have helped me with mine.

Sincerely,
Ilona Klosowska

Rockley Family Foundation Scholarship

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**REBECCA
DHALA**

Major: Music

Academic Year: Junior

Expected Graduation: 2021

Hometown: Bronx, New York

Dear Mr. Rockley,

I am writing to convey how deeply grateful I am to have been selected as a recipient of the Rockley Family Foundation Scholarship. My name is Rebecca Dhala. I am a junior at Baruch College and will be graduating in June 2021. My major is Music with a specialization in Management of Musical Enterprises. I have a passion for music. I love singing, songwriting and being able to make music with others.

This year, I hold the position of President of Blue Notes, Baruch College's premier co-ed a cappella group. Last year, I was Vice President and this is my third year as a member of Blue Notes. We have performed at Barclay's Center for Graduation, the annual Bernard Baruch Dinner, Engelman Recital Hall in the Baruch Performing Arts Center for events such as "Baruch in Concert" and "Blue Notes Showcase", the premiere of Pitch Perfect 2 and 3 at local movie theaters, award ceremonies and other events on campus. Beyond this, Blue Notes has always been a tightly knit group. We often can be found coming together in our clubroom to play card games, laughing with one another and enjoying each other's company. Blue Notes is more than my friend group; they are my family. Being a part of such a wonderful team is more than anything I could ever wish for.

I have also been an intern at the 92nd Street Y's Center for Arts Learning and Leadership for three years. I started in their Teen Producers program, which is a career exploration and mentorship program that allows high school students from the Bronx to learn about the business side of the arts. After I completed the program, I was hired as an intern and mentor for the current Teen Producers. Interning at the 92Y while going to Baruch has allowed me to take what I've learned at Baruch and apply it to various things such as my performance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's "Teens Take the Met", the 92Y's "Teen Arts Week" and mentoring the Teen Producers. I am constantly learning things at Baruch that I can apply to my internship at the 92Y, things at the 92Y that I can apply to Blue Notes, and even things I've learned by being a part of the Blue Notes that I can apply to my coursework at Baruch, and beyond.

None of this would be possible without your support. Now, I will be able to complete my degree at Baruch College, become a professional in the business side of the arts and fulfill my dreams.

Thank you very much for your investment in my future.

Warm regards,
Rebecca Dhala

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**DAGNE
ZILIONYTE**

Major: Music

Academic Year: Junior

Expected Graduation: 2020

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Rockley,

My name is Dagne Rebeka Zilionyte, I am a senior Music Management student at Baruch College and I have recently been selected to receive the Rockley Family Foundation Scholarship. I wanted to write this letter as a thank you from me and my family.

I have been studying at Baruch for over three years now, and was struggling financially to remain actively enrolled. As an international student, I am not eligible for any financial aid, loans, nor scholarships, and my education has been financed by my family. To have the opportunity to study in The United States is a great accomplishment in itself, but the sacrifices my parents and grandparents made in order for me to be here have put an enormous amount of pressure. The Rockley Foundation Scholarship was awarded to me on my last year at Baruch, which is also the most financially straining. I am beyond grateful for the generosity of your family and would like you to know that you have made my life less stressful, giving me the chance to focus on my education and my career.

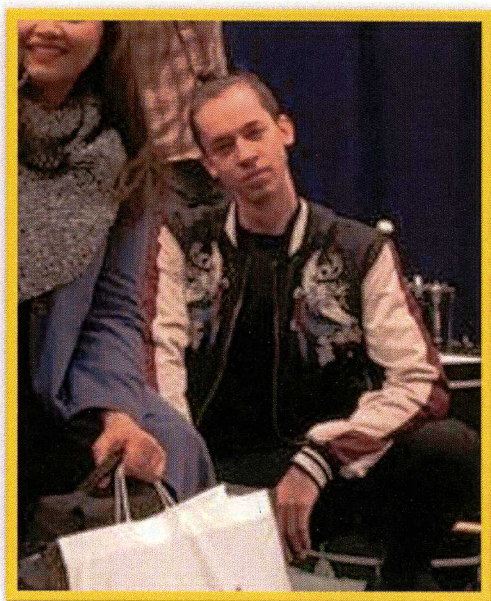
With this money, I will be able to fund a part of my out of state tuition, and will be able to take more credits to graduate on time. As a senior studying Music management, I will be able to focus on the remaining classes as well as seek out internships that will help me further my career. The plan for my future is to become an artist manager, get an MBA, and eventually go back to my hometown in Lithuania, where I will try and make music an influential export to the world. I hope everyone gets to see and hear the talents that Lithuania has to offer, and I hope my grandparents will live to see how my education in New York has helped me achieve my dreams.

My senior year was the year I dreaded the most. Thanks to you, it is now the year I am most excited about, being able to put my energy into the classes and activities that drive me the most. Thank you so much for your generosity and understanding the importance of music and education.

Sincerely,
Dagne Rebeka Zilionyte

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**SZYMON
BAUM**

Major: Music

Academic Year: Senior

Expected Graduation: 2020

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Rockley,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude, as the recipient of the Rockley Family Foundation Scholarship. I am extremely thankful and honored. I believe student majoring in the arts, like music, are often overlooked and underappreciated, which makes me so much more excited about this award. Thank you for your support, it means the world to me and the other music students at my college.

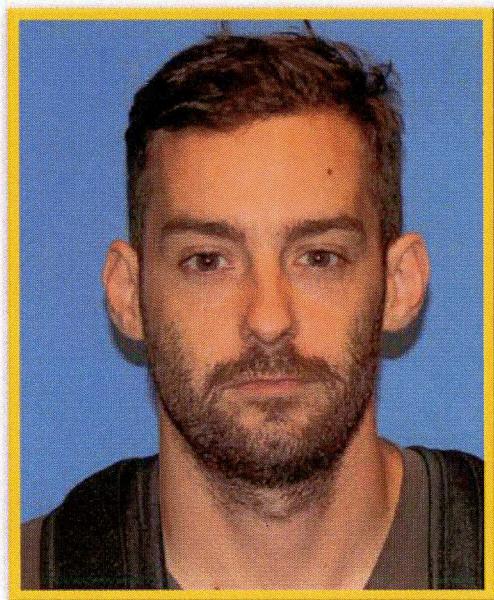
I also wanted to share a little bit about myself and why this scholarship means so much to me. I am an international student from Poland. I am also a senior, which means this is my second-to-last semester here at Baruch. Throughout my journey in college, one of my biggest struggles was finding any sort of financial aid for an F1 visa alien like me. This has actually forced me to consider graduating in just three years, which I am actually pursuing, to cut down on living expenses. Considering that our school is mostly business-focused as well, that has made the process even more difficult. This is why this scholarship means so much to me. My parents had to work very hard to help me pay for college and this grant will relieve some of that stress. As I am approaching the end of my journey with education, gathering the funds has been more and more difficult, which makes the timing even better. I am actually currently interning at a major record label, which has been an incredible learning experience. I am bringing this up, because the one stress that I had about this opportunity was the money. It is actually a paid internship, which has been very helpful for me and my family, but at the same time, now I feel obliged to work as many hours as I possibly can. It has been quite difficult balancing school and trying to work all the hours I can at work. This award will definitely help alleviate that burden. I now have a little bit more help and I know, that if I never need to leave just an hour or two early, to study for an exam, I can do that. Any amount counts and that is why I cannot express my gratitude enough.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help. It means a lot to me and I promise to make you proud by working hard. Moments like this make me feel motivated to try even harder. I want to represent my school and all the people, who are supporting me along this journey, with pride and commitment. I hope to use this award to relieve some of the burdens my current lifestyle has brought upon me and continue working hard as I approach the finish line of my college experience. I cannot describe how much this means to me.

Warm regards,
Szymon Baum

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**MICHAEL
TRIGGS**

Major: Music

Academic Year: Senior

Expected Graduation: 2020

Hometown: White Plains, New York

Dear Mr. Rockley,

Hello! My name is Michael Triggs and I was awarded the Rockley Family Foundation Scholarship. I was thrilled and honored to receive this generous award and I am writing this letter to express my gratitude. This award will tremendously help me in the present and with working toward future endeavors.

While attending Baruch College I have been able to experience a renewed interest in education and I have discovered a clearer path of where I would like to take my career. Prior to enrolling in Baruch I was enlisted in the US Navy for eight years. During my naval career, I was fortunate enough to experience many other cultures and to do some traveling. What I learned during this time is how universal music is and the positive effect it can have on people everywhere. I was also lucky enough to work at a radio station while stationed in Sicily where I had the opportunity to meet some tour managers during USO tours that came to the base. Here is where I decided that I was interested in pursuing a career in the music business. Before starting Baruch, I only had a general idea of what specific music field I was interested in. After taking many music classes, I have decided that I am quite interested in the music rights and clearances field.

After graduation, I intend to use my education and experience gained to become involved in the music rights and clearances field. My career goal is to work at either a record label or a media company ensuring the completion of song clearances for movies and TV shows. I would like to ultimately head a department and have an influence on the songs that are chosen. My intention is to ensure that more independent artists are given the chance to receive exposure. Without the music courses offered at Baruch, I would not have been able to find a career I am very excited to begin.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your very generous donation to the Baruch music program. The experience I have had since I started my college career at Baruch has helped me not only ease back into civilian life but also thrive. Before I joined the military, I did so as an alternative to school and now I am glad I did because I appreciate the classes more now. This would not be possible without foundations like yours that help students further their education. I am exceptionally grateful for this scholarship. The donation you made will help me prepare for my transition into a new career. The donations you have made also inspired me to reciprocate the action when I am in a similar position in my career.

Sincerely,
Michael Triggs