Text selections for the Academy Street Musical Instrument Benches have been selected based on narrow requisites including: reference to the musical instrument bench into which the words are carved; passages referencing music, dance, singing and song - each being events that will occur during Cary’s Festivals on Academy; brevity with clarity of subject; and context of the bench locations. This last criteria places text by Walter Hines Page adjacent to the Library. Searches for North Carolina poets and prose writers produced four authors who are integrated into Cary’s Academy Street renewal. These poets are Dr. Maya Angelou (Winston-Salem), Carl Sandburg (Flat Rock), R.R. Richardson (Camp Lejeune), and as noted, Mr. Page. Highly-regarded and widely known Classical poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Yeats, and Mary Anne Evans (published under the name George Elliot) are incorporated into our project as is noted American naturalist John Muir.

Each bench location has been carefully selected, taking into account placement in relation to nearby businesses, homes, and churches. Each placement first and foremost always allows room for pedestrians to pass easily along the sidewalk. Each bench is at a height closely equal to other benches set along Academy and are sized to easily seat two to three people. The majority of the benches are paired with another of its kind which sets opportunity for numerous musicians to play in groups – string quartets on the violin benches set along the entry way to the library or a pair of dulcimer players on the “Courting Dulcimer” set between the new Park and the new Mayland Hotel.

The Dulcimer bench incorporating Dr. Angelou’s text, from her poem “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings” carries images of Henslowe’s Bunting - a native North Carolina bird, often referred to as a humble songbird. This poem and this bird are a match for one another on the Dulcimer located adjacent to the Baptist Church.

The violin bench incorporating “Taking Violin at School” by April Halprin Wayland is sited along the path to the Library and adjacent Holly Smith Talton’s Violin Studio that is housed in her home, formerly the home of her Grandmother.

Adjacent to this violin bench is another violin carrying Walter Hines Page’s strong regard and advocacy for education - “I believe in the free public training of both the hands and the mind of every child born of woman” - placed on the path to the Library.

During a visit to a stringed instrument shop to study these various instruments, upon my mention of the Dulcimer, the shop owner, unprompted, recited the...
Coleridge poem. In a visit to a violinmaker’s shop a sign on the shop wall held the reference to “Stradivarius’s Violins,” Mary Anne Evans’ poem.

Notes:
Due to space available on the benches and need to make the letters big enough to be both legible and large enough to easily cut into the granite, certain texts may require editing. When this is necessary I am working with the poets / poet’s estates / publishers to be certain our edits retain the intent of the work.

A standard fee for one-time copyright use in a public setting is $100.00 and is the amount being offered to poets and publishers. If this payment is refused we will make use of other text. You will note that some of the text is Public Realm meaning the copyright has lapsed and no fee is required.
Note: The copyright use price was paid to contemporary musicians for a one-time application of their work in stainless steel sheet music reproductions for a transit center public art project in Nashville 2008. This establishes the precedent we are applying for Academy Street.

Academy Street Benches, Authors, Copyright Status & Bench Location

Dulcimer - four benches

A damsel with a dulcimer
In a vision once I saw; It was an Abyssinian maid,
And on her dulcimer she played,
Singing of Mount Abora.
  Samuel Taylor Coleridge
  Public realm
  sited east side Academy south of Chatham

Sweet Dulcimer...
in your strings and swirly grains
lie my life's story
and the way my river runs.

Somewhere in the misty moonlight
I hear her music play
Sweet Dulcimer
take me home.
Sweet Dulcimer...she'll take me away.
  R.R.Richardson
  Use fee $100 - Copyright use secured
  North Carolina poet
A bird doesn’t sing because
It has an answer, It sings
Because it has a song.
    Maya Angelou

Use fee TBD - Copyright use underway with publisher
North Carolina poet
sited at Park & Academy, northwest corner at Church

O body swayed to music, O brightening dance,
How can we know
The dancer from the dance
    William Yeats

sited east side Academy south of Chatham

Courting Dulcimer  -  one bench

and those who dance are considered insane
by those who cannot hear the music
    George Carlin
public realm
south side Academy across from Library

Violins  -  four benches

Taking Violin at School
I open my case
tighten my bow
pluck a string to tune.

My friends are in class
reading about
a famous English king.
But I am training this wooden
bird upon my arm to sing.
    April Halprin Wayland
fee TBD - Copyright use discussion underway with poet
sited adjacent to the violin studio on Academy

Sell me a violin, mister, of old mysterious wood...
Sell me horsehair and rosin...
Sell me something crushed in the heartsblood of pain
readier than ever for one more song.
Carl Sandburg
fee TBD - Copyright use underway with publisher
North Carolina Poet
sited along the entry path to the Library

‘Tis God gives skill,
But not without men’s hands: He could not
make
Antonio Stradivarius’s violins
Without Antonio.
Mary Anne Evans [George Eliot]
Public realm
sited along the entry path to the Library

I believe in the free public training of both the hands
and the mind of every child born of woman.
Walter Hines Page
Public realm
sited along the entry path to the Library

**Dobro** - two benches

The water in music the oar forsakes.
The air in music the wing forsakes.
All things move in music and write it.
The mouse, the lizard, and grasshopper sing
Together on Turlock sands,
Sing in the morning stars.
John Muir
fee TBD - Copyright use discussion underway with publisher
sited adjacent to Post Office

**Mandolin** - two benches

The Mandolin
Made for the monster
Played by the pauper
Aged by the sage
Loved by the lunatic

Now waits
mounted
on a poor man’s wall,
For a master
to recall:
the hidden,
the mystery,
the music-
its all in all.

Martin Hugo
fee TBD - Copyright use discussion underway with poet
may require editing
sited across Academy at Waldo, southwest corner

Mandolin harmonies
tailed up Bear Hair Gap,
echoed between
the chestnuts, hickories & sweet blackberries.

Jonny Angel
fee TBD - Copyright use discussion underway with poet
sited across Academy at Waldo, southwest corner