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BLOGS

OUR GUYS AND GALS ON THE STREET

We asked three interns to blog about their experiences working at Music@Menlo – the chamber music festival and institute at Menlo Park, California



Students arrive at Menlo

Yesterday was a lot of orientation work and we moved over to the official production team office. Everything is set up well, with me and another intern at the center tables so we can see the whole room. The tables on the side have two communal computers and office space for the other interns.

Now with all the chairs, stands, and lights out of the basement it certainly feels like the festival is near...

*BrandyLee Hatcher,
assistant stage
manager intern*

■ MENLO MADNESS

We're at T minus two weeks until the festival begins now. You would think the pressure is mounting as the inevitable crises arise, but thus far peace reigns

at the student liaison desk. Perhaps we are in the calm before the storm. The only eruptions arise when either my intern partner or I, who are tried and true PC users, threaten to throw our beautiful MacBooks at the wall.

But generally speaking, this internship has it all: sunshine, tasty treats, an amazingly talented group of interns and staff, and a fantastic festival program to boot. I mean that's what we're here for. Chrissy and I, the student liaison team, ensure the smooth running of the chamber music institute, which brings in 29 young performers and 11 international pre-professional artists for an intense, three-week experience.

■ SUMMER IN SILICON VALLEY

There is nothing more exciting than the first day at a new job. New people, new locations, new tasks.

This is the second day the production team has been in full swing. Everyone is extremely friendly and helpful. We have a good variety, although I was surprised that no one is a quote-unquote 'theater person'.

Sure, most have had some experience in theater and many have musical training, but no one else seems to be a technical theater person.

Spreading my passion for the stage is very fulfilling and it is great to learn other information from them, especially regarding classical chamber music.

Internal affairs: BrandyLee Hatcher, Sophie Walker and Katherine Raymond (l-r)



They will have coaching sessions everyday plus they'll be performing in their own concerts. But the institute is only one part of the overall festival, which includes lots of professional performances, audience interaction and basically an incredible immersion into the chamber music world.

Almost three weeks on the job and so far we've clocked up: two visits to the Stanford Music Library to find scores; over 30 miles of test driving in the Palo Alto area to make sure that artists don't lose their way; two major mailings to our students; and at least 200 emails to parents, colleagues, staff, and students. We've also been busy editing many of the documents from last year's team to make them current for this year's festival and deciding how policies should best be altered to improve on last year's festival.

Sophie Walker,
student liaison intern

■ BOOK-KEEPER

Right now, I'm the keeper of the festival production schedule. It's a pretty big responsibility, and almost every day I have a moment of fear that I'm going to delete it all with the clumsy stroke of a key.

Every day before I leave at 5.30am, I post the most up-to-date schedule online, so all the interns and festival staff can access it. Today I had the particularly fun task of creating trivia questions about the festival for a game that we're playing with all the interns tomorrow at our staff meeting. 'How many concerts will the Escher String Quartet do at this year's festival?' and 'How many sets of siblings and spouses are performing this year?' I can't wait to see their faces tomorrow when I ask them what repertoire the Borromeo String Quartet is performing on their Carte Blanche recital.

I'll have to do some more studying of the festival brochure to make sure I know

the answers to everything I'm asking! It's kind of a brutal memorization process, but I think it will really help me and the other interns interact confidently with patrons and artists once the festival starts. Since it's about 9.30pm, and I have a good book waiting for me, I'll go ahead and sign off.

But don't worry - there will be many more spectacularly exciting blog entries to read in the coming weeks! Hooray for Music@Menlo!

Katherine Raymond,
operations intern

To read the Menlo blogs in full, visit musolife.com