

Elie Bashkow
Rising 4th year Arts Award Proposal
March 2022

Summer in Nashville, TN

Summary:

I would like to spend the summer in Nashville, building professional connections and expanding my network outside of Virginia.

Background:

I have lived in Charlottesville my whole life and while I love the musical community which raised me, I'm reaching a point in my professional development, especially as a record producer, where I'm beginning to feel like being in a larger city would really benefit me. When it comes to the production business, network is truly everything and while I'm building a body of work which I believe can speak for itself, I'm having difficulties meeting other music professionals in my field outside of this area. I plan to really devote myself full time to music upon my graduation but I'm also aware of how daunting a task that is and how much preparation is required. This is why I think it would be extremely beneficial to spend my summer living in Nashville, TN aka. "Music City", expanding my network and laying the groundwork for once I graduate.

Over spring break, I visited Nashville for two days to get a feel for the place and see if it would suit me. I was blown away at how quickly I began to meet people. At a coffee shop I ran into the owner of a small indie label and we chatted for a bit and I got his contact and then later that same afternoon I made friends with a girl who worked for a publishing company as a songwriter. She said if I came there for the summer, she could help me get on a call with her boss. In Charlottesville, the reality is that this type of thing simply doesn't occur in the same way.

Plan:

My plan is essentially to pack up my whole studio into my car: speakers, mics, room treatment, etc. and drive to Nashville for all of July and August as well as some of June. I have already found an apartment in a great neighborhood that I would sublet with another UVA student and Miller Arts Scholar, Andrew Robinson, who is also going to Nashville this summer to work on music. I also have some existing connections in Nashville which I am excited to pursue and see where they might lead and I have begun to compile a list of people who I will contact. For work, I will try and work as a gigging musician, playing at various Nashville venues, many of which are great jumping off spots for songwriters as well a decent source of income for bands. I also really want to build relationships with publishers and local producers and maybe even find some new production clients to work with while I'm there. I am already working with one artist from

Nashville and even a single additional production client from there could make a huge difference for me.

I am not naïve, I do not expect it to be an effortless time of infinite connections, easy work, and gold records but I do think that if I go there and hustle hard, I can make some real progress.

Budget:

For my arts award, I am requesting assistance with rent and general travel and food expenses.

2 months rent and utilities: \$2500

Misc. travel and food expenses: \$500

I'm aware that the whole experience will cost over \$3,000 so I have some savings of my own that I will throw in in addition.

Faculty Advisor:

For my faculty advisor, I would like to work with Ted Coffey again. Ted has been an amazing mentor to me in the past and we have a really good working dynamic. No matter the topic, Ted always has wisdom to offer me which is helpful and clarifying. Although I'm not entirely certain how the role of faculty advisor will play out with a project like the one I am proposing, I believe that having Ted as a person to consult with and talk stuff through with will inevitably be helpful.

Fulfillment of Arts Award Requirements:

With this project, obviously the main work will take place over the summer however, once I return to Charlottesville, I hope to have established some strong connections which I can continue to build on throughout my fourth year and through graduation, giving me more footing in the industry after I am finished at UVA.

I am still thinking about how to present something tangible from my experience for the showcase next April, especially because for my time in Nashville to be successful, it needs to be inherently flexible. I think that working out something creative to present will be a fun part of the process and is something I intend to work on throughout the year with Ted's guidance.

Participation in the arts at UVA

I've taken both the Miller Arts classes and continue to make progress on my music major, with only a few classes left before completion. This semester I'm working with Ted Coffey in an independent study as well as taking Sonic Encounters (MUSI 3010).

In addition to my curricular music, I am currently playing in six bands around UVA and in Charlottesville as well as working as a producer, making songs for multiple artists at UVA and beyond. All told, I spend probably a minimum of four hours a day working on music, usually

more like seven. As bandleader of a few bands, I have work closely with the UVA Indieheads club, University Records Club, and the WXTJ student radio to organize shows for the student community. I am also starting a record label called Tropic Records with another UVA alum who lives in Cincinnati and we have already signed 2 UVA artists to it, both of whom are production clients of mine.