

Alex Burijon (he/him)
Miller Arts Scholar, Music
March 2023
Arts Scholar Third-Year Award Application

NEW YORK SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Project Overview

With the help of the Miller Arts Scholars program, I plan to live in New York City this year from late May through early August to pursue two internships, one in-person within the music industry and one remote in the administrative realm through UVA's Internship Placement Program. I intend to gain more experience to assist in determining my career path, network among the New York music and theater scenes, work on my vocal proficiency, and earn money.

This past winter, I worked with Diana Kazakova, a well-versed and well-connected musician and friend of my aunt. A few months prior, she had been presented with a residency requiring weekly performances at Minton's Playhouse in Harlem. Even with her many producing credits, she struggled to keep up with the many moving parts that this project entailed because of little advance notice. So, I left for the city just in time to watch her New Year's show and meet some of her bandmates before Minton's winter break. During her time off from the club, Diana and I looked through all of her content and databases and streamlined as much as we could for the total 40 hours that I worked. For the first week, I watched 20+ hours of her concert recordings, tagging the timestamps and performers of each song (as well as adding my own thoughts). Afterwards, we got together to discuss how to best pay her musicians who can sometimes be difficult to reach. On top of finances, we discussed website formatting, publicity, and how to make her next season run as smoothly as possible. We worked through her setlists and added more songs that flaunted the Broadway cabaret theme. On my train ride home, I used this data to create nine more setlist formats and itemized all of her sheet music, deleting redundant copies and renaming mislabeled charts. After I arrived home, I felt the immediate urge to go back and do more. I felt that there was a need to help solo musicians and producers with creative thinking that I would be thrilled to fill; the fire within me to reenter the field and work with more people on different projects has become a driving motivation.

This upcoming summer, I want to fill a paid position similar to my past winter internship through Diana and her connections. I am looking to gain more experience that will help me develop my production and arts management skills by exposure to new tools, people, and tasks. In addition, living in the city will allow me to attend more musical and dramatic performances, presenting many more opportunities to network with jazz and Broadway performers than I had this past winter. On top of professional growth, I would encounter many chances to work on my own musical proficiency. In the past, I have sat in on vocal coaching sessions of various teachers, and I myself take virtual lessons from Diana on a monthly basis. If I were to live in New York this summer, she would be able to teach me in-person, exponentially increasing our productivity and allowing us to work more continuously. In summary, working with my New York connections for three months would help me determine my career path, create and foster music and theater connections, continue to grow my vocal abilities, and garner pay.

In addition to working on-site, I have been offered an interview with the Jacksonville Urban League for their Social Justice Advocacy Intern position. This program takes place from June 5 to July 28 and fills 20 hour work weeks. If I am offered this internship, I will complete it remotely and asynchronously, giving me more experience with juggling many projects at one time and managing different systems and communication routes. This internship will give me the

opportunity to explore the professional social justice world, a sphere I have not yet entered but about which I have great desire to learn.

As I pursue these goals, my main concern is the high cost of housing. I humbly request \$3,000 from Miller Arts Scholars to cover approximately half of my needs and will supplement the rest with internship income and/or personal funds. For my living situation, I am researching apartments that can offer a two or three month lease. Noel Lobley, acting as my faculty mentor, has pursued many traveling projects before and worked within the music industry for over 20 years. He has provided much insight on how to cement ideas into concrete plans, and he has given helpful feedback on which of my plans are attainable and which need adjustment. To present my progress next April, I intend to perform a vocal and/or instrumental piece on which I will have worked with many musicians, and I will generate a report providing information on the kind of work I will have done and the people I will have met, concluding how my experiences will have contributed to my larger career-making decisions.

Participation in the Arts

Since arriving at UVA, I have fallen in love with both our a cappella and theater cultures. I joined Harmonious Hoos in my first semester where I quickly began to learn how to arrange and shape our musical output. I was elected to be our Music Director this past winter, and since then, I have become obsessed with helping each person realize their own individual goals and increasing our musical quality alongside individual musical competency. Additionally, I joined First Year Players as soon as I arrived on Grounds, performing in the cast both semesters first year as featured characters and leads, dedicating a weekly minimum of six and maximum of 35 hours to rehearsals. I became infatuated with the community, so I vocal directed the following production of *Hello, Dolly!* while acting as a Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chair alongside Helen Do. This position ends in May, and while I am not eager to vacate my seat, I am excited to run for Social Chair in the fall. Academically, I am a Music Major who has participated in the University Singers and Chamber Singers for one semester each, and I have scored well in Jazz Improvisation (on electric bass), Musicianship II, Music and Discourse, and Theory I. I am currently enrolled in Pop Music Voice Class and Studies in 19th-Century Music, and I am excited to determine what next fall holds in store. I am a recent applicant of the Miller Arts Scholars program, but thanks to First Year Players, a cappella, and music courses, I have been connected with many of the current scholars, including Xander Tilock, Jesper Braley, Rachel Guo, Holly Teti, Elise Ebert, Jack Kehoe, Talia Pirron, Meggie Ferguson, Sam Gerardi, Susana Kuhn, Andrea Tache Lopez, Michael McNulty, Julia Nelson, and Lydia Newman.

Portfolio

“Charade” by Henry Mancini, acoustic guitar and voice – <https://youtu.be/OD7hJfyMXy4>

“Epic I” from *Hadestown*, acoustic guitar and voice – <https://youtu.be/mhY2iA8BnQU>

- Narration of the story of Hades and Persephone from *Hadestown*. Written for performance on electric guitar, originally performed by Reeve Carney and written by Anaïs Mitchell. I have little experience with falsetto and mix with my new lower voice, so this is a documentation of my exploration.

Application Form

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SyDnu-8bq2o-5wjS1KPZF8cRI8vKgvir/edit?usp=share_link&oid=113540018473691873430&rtpof=true&sd=true

Unofficial Transcript

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kv4b0S8ZYAU698VG0TIBxIDWrPUxaYBM/view?usp=share_link

Resumé

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1luSB2Nlvlo7zOaNHQWrkRXzGTZs4tAJt/view?usp=share_link

Timeline

May 2023

- Early May* Receive notification of funding from Miller Arts Scholars.
- Fourth or fifth week* Move from Richmond, VA to Manhattan, NY.
- Fifth week* Begin in-person internship, supplemented by personal funds.
- Monthly* Conduct one in-person lesson with Diana Kazakova.

June 2023

- Early June* Receive funding from MAS, begin IPP internship or on-site job.
- Over the month* Attend shows and pride events to network with performers.
- Monthly* Conduct one in-person lesson with Diana Kazakova.

July 2023

- Over the month* Continue both internships, attend events, and amass funds.
- Monthly* Conduct one in-person lesson with Diana Kazakova.

August 2023

- Early or mid-August* Finish internships, finalize contact information with new connections, and move back to Richmond or Charlottesville.
- Mid-August* Prepare for the upcoming fall MAS class and spring presentation.
- Over the month* Look into careers based on what I learned and compile information from my summer experiences.
- Monthly* Conduct one in-person lesson with Diana Kazakova.

September 2023 — April 2024

- Monthly* Conduct virtual lessons with Diana Kazakova.

April 2024

- TBD* Present my findings alongside other Arts Awards recipients, including the performance of one to two songs and informational report.

Budget

ITEM, DESCRIPTION	CALCULATIONS	TOTALS
EXPENSES		
<u>Housing</u>		
Securing one room either in an apartment complex or of a friend.	Greatly varies, but will definitely exceed \$3,500.	~\$3,500 - \$4,500
<u>Food</u>		
Minimal groceries	\$40/week x ~12 weeks = \$480	\$480
Restaurants/cafés for networking	\$15/meal x 2 meals/day = \$30/day x 7 days = \$210/week x 12 weeks = \$2,520	\$2,520
<u>Shows</u>		
Viewing Broadway and/or other musical performances	Compliments of employers.	\$0
<i>Total</i>		
<i>Minimum</i>		<i>\$6,500</i>
<i>Maximum</i>		<i>\$7,500</i>
INCOME, FUNDING, AWARDS		
<u>Income Item:</u> MAS Third Year Award	Received after internship starting date.	\$3,000
<u>Income Item:</u> In-person internship	Minimum estimate: \$10/hour x 20 hours = \$200 x 11 weeks = \$2,200	\$2,200 - \$3,300
	Maximum estimate: \$15/hour x 20 hours = \$300 x 11 weeks = \$3,300	
<i>Total</i>		
<i>Minimum</i>		<i>\$5,200</i>
<i>Maximum</i>		<i>\$6,300</i>

These differences will be supplemented by personal funds.