

Luc Cianfarani
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2017 Arts Award Outcome Report

Summer Composition Internship

For my rising fourth year arts award I requested a grant to offset the costs of housing in Los Angeles where I would be interning for composer Chad Cannon. The resulting experiences from this internship were among some of the most valuable I had during my time at UVA and I left Los Angeles with new connections, friends, and a greater determination to become a professional composer.

I found Chad Cannon after coming across the documentary "Paper Lanterns, for which Chad was nominated for best original score in a documentary by the International Film Music Critics Association. I sent Chad a cold call email in early February of last year and he agreed to take me on as an intern for the summer. I had many responsibilities while interning. On the musical side of things, I was responsible for orchestrating, proofreading, arranging and transcribing both the works of Chad and those of other composers. Each week brought something different and projects ranged from work on film music, to work on concert music, to even work on a Christian rock album. Included in this was work for Japanese film composer Joe Hisaishi in preparation for a concert of his music in Paris.

In addition to my musical work, I was also exposed to the business side of composition. I learned what it was like to run a composer collective, how to schedule recording sessions and find musicians for these sessions, and how to market your own work. Equally as important, I learned film music jargon that has allowed me to communicate more effectively with many people in the industry. These are lessons that could not have been learned inside of a classroom and I feel confident now that when I start my career I will be ahead of the curve.

Chad went out of his way to make sure that I would learn the business side of the industry by bringing me along to every meeting and business lunch he went to. I was brought along to sound design meetings, lunches with potential collaborators and filmmakers, and I met with professional musicians based in L.A. I had the opportunity of attending a recording session at Capitol Records in Hollywood and I was able to talk with renowned soloists. Throughout all of these experiences, I learned how to act as both a musician and as a businessperson.

Interning with Chad also made me a better composer. Spending all day looking at the works of other composers let me see what I did and did not like. This allowed me to further refine my compositional style and decide what I wanted to say as an artist. On a more practical side, my DAW skills and my ability to create mock-ups also greatly improved. I can now create mock-ups that sound life-like and that present my work at a professional standard. This skill has allowed me to pick up more jobs in the past year and has pushed my career ahead.

Going into last summer I was unsure if I would pursue piano performance or composition professionally. However, after interning I was convinced that I wanted to become a professional composer. I returned to UVA and enrolled in private lessons with Prof. Leah Reid. Having a small portfolio, I worked throughout the fall semester to develop this portfolio into one that was substantial enough to use for graduate school applications. I was successful in developing my portfolio and I was accepted into four of the seven master's programs that I applied to. I decided to attend Boston University where I will be beginning my course of study in the fall.

I'd like to thank the Miller Arts Scholars with providing me the funds that made this life changing summer possible. I'd like to especially thank Sandy and Vinie Miller and Evie and Stephen Colbert. The Miller Arts Scholar program had a profound impact on my musical education throughout my undergraduate education and I am confident that I would not be attending graduate school in composition without this experience. As I move on after UVA, I will do my best to further capitalize upon the investment that the program and its donors have put into my education.



Attending a recording session at Capitol Records



Working in the studio



Performing some of Chad's music in the studio

