

Summer Internship Report 2017

Madeline Crone, C'17

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina



**Triple 8 Management/King Pen Music
Nashville, Tennessee**

Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

I was hired by Jay Williams, a Sewanee alumni and partner at William Morris Endeavour. He graciously asked about my areas of interest within the music industry and placed me with two of his clients: Triple 8 Management and King Pen Music. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to learn as much as I possibly could in a short amount of time. My administrative responsibilities were similar for both, and often tedious. However, there was much to learn about the two different companies. At Triple 8 it was exciting to be involved in the day-to-day management of artists and on some days difficult to not act as a fan girl, whether it was being sent to an artist's' home to pick things up or helping them load up their tour bus with merchandise. At King Pen Music I was able to interact daily with songwriters, who tended to be a bit more humble than artists, and go through catalogues of songs that could not be accessed by anyone outside of the company. Listening through catalogue for pitch ideas for certain labels or artists was one of my favorite activities. My exciting days ranged from intimate show experiences to babysitting my boss' kids at CMA Fest. My most exciting moment was when my supervisor texted me as she was walking into a meeting at a major label asking me to remind her of some of the pitch ideas I had shared with her earlier that week.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

During my internship I was able to gain a familiarity of many of the terms and tasks used and required within the industry that cannot be learned in the classroom. This experience gave me confidence to continue my career exploration in the music industry because I gained a competitive edge that caught me up to speed with the Belmont graduates who have the academic background to qualify them professionally. I also learned that my liberal arts education is the most powerful tool I have entering the professional world. What I did not learn in the classroom I am able to catch on to quickly because of my liberal arts training that has allowed for a broad perspective of many issues.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

There were many daily issues that arose that required divergent thinking and being polite. Anything from packages arriving late and needing to be redirected from an unfamiliar city or flower orders that never were delivered or shipping forty pound speakers from Nashville to Iceland after realizing there was no place to purchase the equipment that could outweigh the cost of an overnight shipment of that weight to Iceland. All of the problems that came up could be solved by remaining calm and considering all options. It was important to do what I was told but often times there were ideas I felt strongly about that I would share as a solution, and was pleasantly surprised by the reception from my supervisors.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

Working on an every-other day schedule created a difficult situation of communicating effectively with the other interns, while never coming face-to-face. In both companies, my fellow interns and I developed systems of communication/checking-in where tasks were left off so that the workflow would not be entirely interrupted every morning. We used tools such as Wunderlist and Google Docs to show what was done and where to continue the following day. This was helpful for both the interns and our supervisors so they would not have to be interrupted to organize and delegate tasks.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

My experience solidified my interest in events and coordination. Day-to-day artist management was maybe not the best position for me because I learned I am a big picture person and am discouraged when only having a small hand in multiple projects at a time, often times never seeing the final product or hearing any follow-up about it. However, the skills I obtained in organization, time allocation, and communication are extremely valuable going forward. Music Publishing was an amazing opportunity to feel so close to the physical production of music, having no musical inclination myself. I feel that a combination of the skill sets applied in an area focused more on booking bands or coordinating events will be the best step forward for me in my career.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

I came across many people with Music Business degrees who were skeptical of my degree in Psychology. This was an intimidating situation until I realized that my degree has advantages of its own that are missing from a degree that requires more specific training. Rather than becoming defensive, I would respond graciously, acknowledging that I have a lot to learn, but that my Psychology degree has components that will allow for exceptional learning of what I do not yet know.

Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?

Reach out to older peers from Sewanee who are in Nashville (or other cities) about sublease opportunities. This option is often cheaper than university housing at Vanderbilt and allows you to network with the Sewanee community in that city.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

The experience Mr. Williams provided for me this summer not only propelled my career exploration forward, but also created a motivation for me to continue to share my success with the Sewanee community as a sign of my gratitude. It was obvious the respect his clients, colleagues, and even industry-peers, had for him in Nashville because of the respect I felt from people, knowing Mr. Williams had sent me their way. I am overwhelmed with appreciation for the support I felt from such a successful and well-respected man.