

Organization

Established in 1978, the Ash Lawn-Highland Summer Festival's opera company presents opera and musical theater sung in English and performed at the beautiful Paramount Theatre on Charlottesville's historic Downtown Mall. The Festival offers several internships for college students both during the Festival season from mid-June through mid-August, as well as throughout the year. These internships provide excellent opportunities for students interested in all aspects of theater, arts administration, or business management and give students hands-on experience in the operation of a professional opera company. Interns can focus on a variety of areas, including production, general administration, development, marketing, and press relations. Talented students can also sing in a show's ensemble or play in the orchestra.

Role and Context

Interns play a vital role in the activities of the opera company. Because of the small size of its staff, interns are given many responsibilities.

Qualifications

Internships provide an excellent opportunity for students interested in all aspects of theater, business, arts management, even performance. Appreciation of the arts is required, as are strong writing and organizational skills. The Summer Festival staff works as a team on many projects, so an ability to work with others is essential. The pace is brisk, with many projects appearing at the last minute.

Orientation

All interns will receive one week of training, and on-going supervision continues throughout the duration of the internship.

Other

No stipend. Must have own car. Housing provided, if needed.

Internships Available

Production Intern

This internship provides a challenging learning experience for any student interested in stage production. The Production Intern gains valuable skills in scene painting, scene shifting, lighting design, theatrical sewing techniques, wardrobe/dresser skills, and carpentry for the stage. Summer only.

Arts Management/Production Intern

This internship provides a unique and invaluable opportunity for any student interested in a career in the arts, introducing the student to all aspects of the production and operation of an opera company. The Arts Management/Production Intern's time is divided between the administrative office, the production staff, the costume shop, and the Box Office. Summer only.

Arts Management/Performance Intern

This internship is designed for students with both performance and administrative interests. Participants in this position sing or play with the Summer Festival Ensemble and provide important office support, assisting with press release and fund-raising mailings, program design and maintaining databases. Summer only.

Press/Development/Marketing Intern

This internship is particularly beneficial to students with a strong interest in arts or non-profit management. Duties include composing press releases and calendar listings, organizing press databases, maintaining files of press releases and clippings, and developing contacts with area newspapers, magazines, and both radio and television stations. The intern also creates development packages and strategies, researches and updates grant information and participates in grant writing. Spring and/or Summer.

Administrative Intern

This internship provides an opportunity to explore all administrative aspects of an arts organization. In addition to providing general office support, the Administrative Intern maintains databases, organizes fund-raising mailings, and designs Festival programs. Spring and/or Summer.

Round Robin Intern

This internship is a unique opportunity to experience every aspect of that the Ash Lawn Opera Festival does. As a Round Robin Intern one moves among the various departments participating in the preparation and execution of our performance season. The intern will, at different times, fulfill all the roles described in the internships above. This internship includes the option of performing as part of the ensemble. Summer only.