

## **Alumni News**

Jared Bovine was a member of the FCCC from 2007 - 2016. He is now a senior at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. He sent the following note to Jon Noyes in September. Congratulations to Jared for all of his successes!!

Hi Mr. Noyes,

I hope all is well! It's been a while since we've spoken, and I just wanted to check in and see how you are. I also wanted to ask how everyone is at FCCC. It's crazy to think that at this point, the majority of the people whom I knew in Chambers are either upperclassmen or have graduated!

Amid what has been an incredibly busy few years, I wanted to fill you in with what I've been up to at Vanderbilt. I've stuck with my original major and plan to graduate as a mechanical engineering major, materials science minor, and with a concentration in music composition. Regarding the latter, I've been taking private composition lessons at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music. I've also taken a handful of relevant elective classes, including orchestration, advanced orchestration, and a class covering the fundamentals of digital audio (recording, editing, mixing, and mastering music). I've taken these because a potential career interest of mine is scoring for film, television, advertisements, or other media outlets.

You may recall I mentioned joining a co-ed a cappella group my freshman year. I'm still a member of this group, and I have served as the Music Director for the past 3 years (2017 school year – present). I'm proud to say that I've taken the best of my learnings from FCCC and musical experiences prior to college, and used these to transform the group into a high-quality musical ensemble. The same principles which apply to any choir also apply to our 15 member ensemble of singers, despite the fact that we perform more current music. Each year we compete in the International Competition of Collegiate Acappella (ICCA's): a competition comprised of a video submission, quarterfinal, semifinal, and final round with groups from the U.S. and UK. Our group, which is about to turn 7, had never placed in the quarterfinal round before I began my term. After I started as music director, the group placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the quarterfinal (2018), and then the following year placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the quarterfinal to advance to the semifinal round for the first time. This year, we are hoping to continue the upward trend and at the very least place at the semifinal round!

I'm still unsure what I intend to do once I graduate, however, a career in music is definitely a strong consideration of mine. I'm currently in the process of applying to jobs in the disciplines of engineering, finance, and music. For engineering, I am applying to consulting and design firms because I prefer the creative "design" aspect of engineering to the "hands-on". For finance, I am applying to entry level positions at large banks and trading firms, many of which incorporate the analytics I'm used to from my education with what I would consider to be my strong presentation and interpersonal skills. For music, I am applying primarily to studio positions at companies which score for films, TV shows, advertisements, and more.

As you can see, I'm still unsure which career path I'd like to take but music has played a large role in my life nonetheless! I am incredibly thankful for all of your instruction throughout my pre-college years, whether it was your suggestion to my parents that I start piano lessons in elementary school, or the multitude of lessons you've taught me as a performer, human being, and friend. Music has positively shaped the person I become. Although it is very cliché, it is also very true that the skills one learns from making music with groups of people are the same ones required for prolonged success in musical, academic, or occupational group settings. This is a lesson which still applies to my life today!

I hope you, your family, and the others at FCCC are doing well. Please tell them all I said hello and that I hope to see them soon. I would love to catch up some time in the near future, whether during a break or after I graduate and (most likely) return to the area from Nashville.

Wishing you all the best,

Jared

As an addendum, Jared sent along the following links to his a cappella group's EP which was released on November 2. That is Jared singing the solo on the second piece entitled "Sway" which he also arranged!

<https://open.spotify.com/album/1aYmpwxNShaycpLGAVcMZG?si=fuyCnI0qRsGC5NFJonkXMg>

Google Drive folder

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1L4seeHh9v6ZOITMk9hVFJKs-018Li4UK>