



EMILY

MUSIC EDUCATION

ABOUT MY MAJOR

I am learning how to become a choir teacher. That's the fun part of it because I get to see behind the scenes of everything that I grew up with in the choir room in high school. Although sometimes people are confused by music education, they usually understand when I explain that I am going to be a choir teacher.

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I was between Math and Music Ed and then halfway through my senior year, I figured I liked choir, playing piano, and all things music. I realized more of my interests aligned with the choral program. My 8th grade choir director, Mr. P, was always so passionate about teaching and one day he told us that when we get out in the real world we should choose a job where we like what we do every day. I liked the perspective of doing something I love even if it meant that I might not make a lot of money. I realized that as long as I love it and have a passion for it, then it won't feel like a job.

SKILLS

One needs to be able to sing along with the piano and know basic music theory. I would say the piano is probably the one that either makes or breaks it for people. You have to take a lot of piano classes. I came in having a lot of years of piano experience, so I didn't have to take any more classes. The piano is important because you may be required to give pitches to company choirs and may not always have a pianist when you get out into the real world.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

I am in the Guild of Carillonneurs who are the people who play at the campanile. It is easily one of my favorite organization assignments. You have to be piano proficient to be a part of this and you get to be a part of so much history on campus because there's nothing more iconic than the campanile. You even have a key to get into that building and can go up there and play concerts whenever you want and it is the coolest thing. I have had a lot of opportunities through that with the foundation and then also getting to know people in the Bell world. Another one is the choir program, and one can join even if you're not a music major. There's a home for everyone. I play piano for the Glee Club and I love it. They are such a great group of guys.

I am part of the American Choral Directors Association which is more specific to the major. We get to go to conferences and hang out with a bunch of current and retired choir directors, and people that just love choir singing. This helps to make connections in your field even before you get out there. Just recently, I ran into an old teacher and they offered me a student teaching placement.

ON AND OFF CAMPUS JOBS

I have church jobs where I play piano a lot and I got to work with the church choir as their accompanist. My peer conducted the choir so I was able to learn a lot about teaching the language to the members from them and that helped set me up for choir experience.

Another job I do is teaching at the Community Music School on campus. I have a few piano students ranging from third grade to 60 years old. It is fun to interact with a diverse group of learners