

TELEX PRO AUDIO GROUP TEAMS UP WITH ST. PAUL'S MUSICTECH COLLEGE TO OFFER MIDAS® INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Burnsville, MN (September 18, 2003): Telex Pro Audio Group has joined forces with another locally based leader in the world of professional audio, St. Paul's Musictech College (www.musictech.com), to offer internships that give students the opportunity to develop additional insight into the design, manufacture, marketing and operation of the kind of high-end sound reinforcement equipment that they will be using in real-world applications. Musictech currently has two students placed at the Midas service center at Telex Pro Audio Group headquarters in Burnsville, MN. Placing an emphasis on mentoring the next generation of audio professionals, the program will serve to propagate high standards in the industry and create an ongoing dynamic relationship whereby academic ambition is met with practical, inside-the-industry experience. Other Musictech students are already able to attend monthly in-house seminars on specific areas of sound reinforcement at the fully equipped Telex learning center. This arrangement represents a continued working partnership between Telex Pro Audio Group and Musictech. The college completed a 3.6 million dollar relocation and refurbishment program in spring 2003 with an extensive mixed installation of multiple Electro-Voice loudspeakers and power amplification, Klark Teknik electronics and a Midas Legend 3000 mixing console. Longtime Electro-Voice® specialists Metro Sound of St. Paul undertook the installation.

Musictech moved its 120 faculty and staff to the vacant Minnesota Science Museum east building in January of 2002. The new 9,000 square foot campus was necessary to accommodate the college's booming attendance and growing roster of courses in contemporary production, recording, motion imaging and live sound techniques. One such course is the new Live Sound diploma program, which takes place in the most impressive classroom on campus; a 300-seat, fully equipped concert hall that Peter Greenlund, head of the program, believes is one of the best of its size in the upper Midwest. Student activities here include weekly concerts, student performances, a weekly Artist and Industry seminar and the STAR series that brings in touring artists from around the country. The new system's centerpiece is the 40-channel Midas Legend 3000 mixing console, a tool that evidently captured the imaginations of the students currently interned at the Midas service center.

Erin Polzin graduated in May 2003 with a Recording Technology degree from Musictech, and interned with Midas technicians Mitch Mortenson, Rick Wylie and Jim Sawyer from February to August 2003. Though Erin is just 20 years old, her education and internship have placed her in pole position for a career in pro audio. She described her time at Musictech

and the Midas service center: “I was at Musictech for 16 months, during which time I trained in all aspects of sound production and engineering. Once I learned how to use the equipment, it made sense to learn how it actually worked – to go from behind the wheel to under the hood. I’ve been working at Telex headquarters with Mitch, Jim and Rick in the Midas service center since February 2003, and although I was supposed to finish up in August, I’m still here! This has been a great place to learn and work. I’ve been doing a lot of quality control; everything from inspecting the circuit boards to cleaning the faders. This has allowed me to see how individual elements of a console are integrated into the system as a whole. That’s where the internship really provided a valuable capstone to my work at school.”



Erin Polzin under the hood of a Midas Legend 3000

Erin continued: “At Musictech we had live sound classes using the Legend 3000. We each got to spend time with the Legend, and through those classes I found out about the internship. At school I worked on a variety of consoles. I think the new digital consoles are really cool, but the analog boards sound so much warmer. In this sense it’s important for someone in my position to become familiar with what’s out there, to be aware of a variety of technological solutions. The contemporary market is flooded with options for mixing live sound, and this program really reflects how a mentor can show people like me the wood from the trees, helping steer me towards what will work for me in my career. Having seen how the equipment works, I’m now in a better position to discern the differences in performance and features that separate something like a Legend 3000 from other consoles: digital automation with analog integrity, the option of a full monitor mix from FOH position, etc. Similarly, rather than just accepting a board as the industry standard, it’s important to understand *why* it became the industry standard. My interest in Midas really sprang from the kinds of features that sets these consoles apart – preamps, EQs, etc, and being able to work in the service center has allowed me to understand them from a different perspective.”

Mitch Mortenson of the Midas service department added: “The internship gives students in the industry the opportunity to go beyond what a teacher can show them, in terms of further exposure to the internal, electronic side of the technology involved in what they learn at college. In a real world situation, if anything happened on the job it helps to know how the console is built as well as how to use it. That gives a real advantage for a person coming into the industry, a real competitive edge. The internship also gives an idea of what customers expect and demand and the type of clientele that we deal with. It can also simplify the apparent differences between various disciplines in the industry: all the same routing logic and troubleshooting principles still apply in a recording studio that would be useful in the world of live sound production. Whichever direction a Musictech student decides to take after graduation, this knowledge is going to be applicable.”

Steve Lotzer has been working with the Midas technicians for two weeks, having just begun his second semester at Musictech, and also sees the internship as a means to augment his college experience with some behind the scenes know-how. He commented: “I come in to the service center two afternoons a week, and my fellow intern Omar (Palacios) comes in for another two. I heard about the program through Pete Greenlund, our live sound instructor, and Brian Harrison, our first semester instructor. Pete knows Mitch, and they decided to initiate the internship program. Brian announced the program in class, and it was as simple as

that to go from the auditorium to the service center. This semester we get to really dig in to the Legend at school, having completed Live Sound 1 last semester. I've already been digging around in a number of Midas consoles here, so that's going to come in really handy in terms of coming to grips with the Legend in application."



Steve Lotzer at work in the Midas service center

Steve continued: "A typical day involves Jim telling me what's come in for servicing and how it's going to be repaired. Last week a board came in that needed to be updated and refurbished. I basically cleaned it up and routinely checked some of the functions before Jim completed the process. I have an electronics degree, so this isn't totally foreign to me, though being here helps to fine-tune my current knowledge into a more specialized field. Career-wise I'm still considering the options, in terms of going into live or recorded sound. Working here has shown me that the live sound reinforcement and production industry is as busy as ever. There's always going to be a need for it, as nothing can replace the live experience. I like the idea of contributing to that energy by being completely familiar with the tools of the trade. Basically, I think being comfortable with the inner workings of a console translates into a higher degree of confidence, control and creativity when actually using it."

News Release

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