

THE BLACKBIRD ACADEMY ALUMNI STORIES

The Blackbird Academy prides itself in preparing our graduates for the real world via hands-on experience, insightful guest mentors, and teachers who are both experts at audio and the art of teaching.

Long story short: *it's working.*

Over half of our studio engineering graduates

get a job after graduating, and our live sound

engineering job placement rate is over 90%.

Read below to see the awesome gigs The

Blackbird Academy alumni have landed!

Her favorite moment while in Cuba:

"Toward the end of the show, we climbed up the seat containers and were floored by the massive amounts of people visible. It was unbelievable. 500,000 officially attended, but some estimates went up to 1.5 million. You couldn't see the end."

Rachel Rozzi

Rachel Rozzi was a 2015 Live Sound Graduate and has been busy ever since. Rachel helped the PA crew for The Rolling Stones in Cuba before hopping on tour with Florida Georgia Line via our friends at Clair Global.



When asked about his favorite part about going to The Blackbird Academy, Michael replied:

"I keep figuring out new best things about it. I have these experiences when I'm working with Spike Stent: it feels like I'm at school but it's actually my job. The real world experience you get there is actually real world experience. Between working with the producers and engineers that came in, hearing their stories and their methodology, and seeing how they treated the artists we recorded with, it's all an incredible experience."

Michael Freeman

Michael was part of the very first studio engineering class at The Blackbird Academy, he enrolled after being disappointed with his university's audio program and is now working at EastWest studios with the famous Spike Stent.



Rachel Moore

Rachael Moore was a studio engineering student in the 3rd class from The Blackbird Academy. From there she worked with Grammy winning Producer/Engineer Jacquire King and Engineer Lowell Reynolds and went on to join the staff at the legendary Sound Emporium Studios in Nashville. She has since worked with Charlie Peacock, Angelo Petraglia, Toby Wright, Erick Jaskowiak, Viktor Krauss and more.



"The Blackbird Academy helped me understand session and studio etiquette which is so important. This is a customer service industry through and through. Reading people and making them feel comfortable is just as important as patching a piece of gear and being on your toes. The Blackbird Academy taught me session workflow and how you must always be alert and ready to assist in any way possible. Compared to the legends in this town, I still have so much to learn, but The Blackbird Academy allowed me to see the end result. I see where I need to be because of the guest mentors that came in, and I see where the bar is set in the industry. The Blackbird Academy also helped me establish crucial connections with people in the industry that proved very helpful when I was out on my own. Almost two years later I am still benefitting from the people and places I was exposed to while in the Academy. I am still making my way, but I definitely gained a leg up because of the base work I put in with the Academy."

"The Academy has the ability to bring in some of the most successful industry professionals as guest speakers. TBA allows students to learn networking etiquette in a comfortable environment, so they are able to build up the confidence to introduce themselves at future, possibly more intimidating, events. In addition, you never know where shaking someone's hand could lead. After crossing paths with some of the outstanding guests we had, I made connections that led me to work at CMA Fest, create new co-writing relationships, and begin training with a vocal coach, just to name a few."

Amy Peters

Amy Peters is a songwriter, producer, and was part of the 2015 studio engineering class. She is now a full time singer-songwriter and producer, working alongside the wonderful David Kalmusky and more! When asked why TBA was beneficial for her as a

songwriter, she replied:



Ready to get your head start in the industry?

APPLY TODAY