Connor’s Major: Music Composition

Academic Life: Four days a week (Monday through Thursday) we would all meet up at the music school just outside of Florence city center to present our work and read new music written by the composers (music composition students on the program). It was an extremely flexible program that was geared entirely at helping you become better at whatever it is you wanted to work on. As a composer, I studied a piece that intrigued me and tried working through it with the help of the UW faculty member and the other students on the program. I was also able to write an extensive amount of my own music, which would be played every day I brought it in. It was an incredibly helpful academic experience, more of a workshop than a class, and well worth it.

Housing: I lived in a nice apartment right in downtown historic Florence. Because I was the only male on the program, I lucked out and got the apartment entirely to myself. I bought groceries, I started knowing my way around pretty quickly. Once you get the routine, it’s not so hard to have it feel like a home of sorts.

Advice for Someone Considering the Program: If you are a composer, I would highly suggest it. If you are a performer, you’ll get to work on your own music as well as play what is written by the composers, and in both respects I think you’ll have the opportunity to learn a great deal. On top of that, the traveling experience alone would make it worth the while; it’s such an incredibly fun journey.

“I feel that I grew not only as a musician and a composer, but as an individual while on this program.”