

April Volunteer Staff Q&A

For all three of you, what is your dream job?

- MK – I originally had gone to college for engineering, so I would've ideally found a role in the motorsports industry. In a dream world I'd have worked my way up to be a strategy engineer for a Formula 1 team or crew chief in NASCAR. The inner workings and engineering behind making race cars "go fast" has always captivated me and keeps me engaged as a fan still today.
- PR – I'd love to own and run a theater someday. I used to have ideas of buying space and renovating it, but that seems to be a lot harder to do today than it was when I originally graduated from college
- CS – My dream has always been to be a writer. Considering that I don't take the time to sit down and write anything, progress has been slow. It would be great to wake up and only worry about the next couple-thousand words in my latest draft. At the very least, some of our bigger emails keep my skills sharp.

Cory, how's the married life treating you?

- CS – The thing I keep saying is that I'm *still* married, so I think it's going pretty well! My wife and I were already living together before the wedding, so the day-to-day hasn't really changed. On wild change is how, as much as I loved her before, the feeling blossomed into something a thousand times greater once we put the rings on. It's tough to work the late nights away from her and to be gone for days on end during Musikfest. But I believe we've built a strong, amazing bond and I look forward to continuing to grow our relationship for the rest of our lives.

How many hours do you work in a "typical" week – if there is such a thing?

- MK – If I go over 40 hours in a normal week Cory will send his goons after me. But in all seriousness, I'm scheduled for 40 hours a week, but it can vary depending on what we've got going on during that given week. It's very rewarding work and most weeks it really flies by.
- PR – It really depends on the time of year. July we work the most hours of the year because of prep for Musikfest, so I'd say it can get to around 50 hours.

Musikfest we don't get to see our families for 10 days, so those 10-12 hour days add up. The rest of the year, though, I think we work between 35-40 hours depending on how close we are to an event.

- CS – Tough question. I'm in a position where I'm technically "on call" most of the time, so things tend to bleed together in a way that makes it difficult to stake out a set number of hours. Even on weekends or days off, questions will come to me via texts or calls automatically because folks know I'll generally have the answers. For the most part, I can expect 40 hours, with it increasing to 50-60 during weeks with big events. We've been adding a lot of evening meetings and trainings, so that adds up as well, especially when we consider my long commute from Pottstown. When we have events like Oktoberfest and Christkindlmarkt, we do our best to take a few weekdays off to balance out the fact that we're working weekends. But Musikfest is all-hands on deck. We get to the trailer around 8am, work until the last radio is dropped off at Base Communication around 11:30-11:45pm, and do that for 10 days straight. If you've talked to me at Musikfest and I've had a glazed, dead look in my eyes—that's probably why.

Who is the best dresser of the three of you?

- MK – Probably Parker. I definitely couldn't pull off the rubber ducky shirt like he does.
- PR – So I feel like I'm the center square of the Brady Bunch here and Cory and Michael will say it's me. But Cory has some pretty good shirts as well, and should not be ignored.
- CS – I don't have good shirts. It's Parker.

What type of collections do you each enjoy?

- MK – I was (still am) big into sports card collecting. During the pandemic I had a little eBay "business" where I'd buy and sell cards. It's always a thrill to open a fresh pack of cards with hopes of getting something rare and exciting! Unfortunately, like most things in the world today, new products are far too expensive for me to feasibly do that anymore on that level. So, these days I just stick to collecting things for myself from teams/players I like.

- PR – The closest I come to collecting, I think, is the pins that are up by my desk. I don't really collect them actively, but if I'm travelling or at an event sometime I will pick one up if it catches my eye. I also have many different Pokemon items that are on my desk and at home. That's about it, though.
- CS – I've got a lot of weird stuff. Art prints that speak to me in some way, many of which I'm not allowed to put on the shared gallery wall in the living room. My wife has kindly suggested they'd be better in my home office. I have three swords, two of which I used to keep in my office at the Banana Factory (much to Ray's chagrin). I've always loved LEGOs, and the biggest one I probably have right now is the model set of Jerry Seinfeld's apartment from the classic sitcom. My wife and I both have enough books and board games to fill up two rooms in the house. I also like antiques, thrift store finds, and cool glassware. I have these glass goblets I use when I pour some absinthe once or twice a year. Speaking of, I do have a few cool bottles of spirits at home—I have a bottle of Ancho Reyes (a chili liquor), an oak-aged gin from a local Pottstown distillery, and a super-smokey Nick Offerman edition of Lagavulin that all make great statements on the shelf. I used to maintain an infinity bottle of whiskey (a mix of all kinds of bourbons or whiskeys you have lying around) but only dregs are left after my bachelor party—I need to work on building that back up! And of course, I have enough Musikfest mugs that they line the tops of our kitchen cabinets.

Why wasn't Main Street listed on the polls? That's MY favorite site!

- MK – Sorry, I knew I was forgetting something. My first memories of Musikfest are as a teenager that was probably far too young to be out with my friends without supervision walking down Main Street
- CS – Don't worry, Main Street is a favorite for me too. Whenever I look up a band I'm excited to check out, 8 times out of 10 they're up on Main Street. I think the focus of that stage is to have emerging artists who haven't quite broken through yet, and it's a cool opportunity to see someone a year or two before they end up at Levitt or Zinzenplatz. There's also no better feeling than being able to walk right in the middle of a normally traffic-heavy street, heading down the hill and seeing the Star of Bethlehem shining on top of the mountain above historic Moravian buildings. That's Musikfest, baby!

How long have the three of you been a part of ArtsQuest?

- MK – If you round up, nearly 3 years. Musikfest 2025 will be my 4th Musikfest as staff member of ArtsQuest
- PR – I started in March of 2023, and just passed the 2 year mark!
- CS – I started November 2018, right as that year's Christkindlmarkt started. It's a nice way to close a year and start a new anniversary. Can't believe that this will be my seventh Musikfest.

What color will the T-Shirts be for Musikfest and Levitt this summer (2025)?

- MK – I'm pleased to announce that the 2025 Musikfest Volunteer shirts will be **REDACTED**, and the Site Supervisor shirts this year will be **REDACTED**. I think these are both fun colors and really pop in person.
- CS – You'll have to come to training in person this July to find out!

Which Wind Creek Steel Stage act are each of you looking forward to the most and why?

- MK – Hmm... maybe Nelly? Depending on how "hot in here" it really does get. I actually just found out that The Warped Band is going to be playing at Stadtplatz so I'm actually most excited for that
- PR – I enjoy country music, so Riley Green and Darius Rucker are the two I'm most excited for this year.
- CS – I am a big fan of The Black Keys, so I'm excited to close out the festival with what should be a high energy show!

What place or activity is on the top of your bucket list?

- MK – I have a few answers, I guess. As far as an event, I will find a way to attend the Monaco Grand Prix (among many, many other sporting events) I'd love to visit Japan to experience the culture over there, the Gold Coast of Australia has always been on the bucket list as well. Overall I'd say most of my places or activities that are on the bucket list revolve around a sporting event being the main draw.

- PR – Visiting Ireland is definitely on my list. I would love to see Dublin (obvious choice) because there is a well-regarded theater there. But I also want to check out Cork since that is where my family is from on my dad's side.
- CS - One of my wife's dream vacations is Japan, so I guess it's my dream vacation too. I think it would be really cool to be in Germany for the actual Oktoberfest, and I'd like to do a tour of Ireland, Scotland, and England. I'd like to see more of America, too—Las Vegas, Colorado, the northwest coastline are all high on the list. As far as an activity—I'd like to learn how to brew my own beer at some point. I think it would be cool to brew something I know I would like but can't find anywhere else.