Bio

Prior to becoming a student in the UC Berkeley Mechanical Engineering program, Frank Allison worked as a rigger in the entertainment industry, responsible for the suspension of lighting, audio, video, and scenic elements in theaters, arenas, clubs, and stadiums. He has worked rock, corporate, special events, and everything in between. He has held many varied positions from working as a projectionist for film festivals to climbing steel for the Rolling Stones.

Over the course of his career it became clear to Frank that the growing entertainment industry has future development to do in regards to safety. Recent stage collapses have reinforced the idea that there is much room for improvement and at UC Berkeley he is preparing to continue his work in the entertainment industry and approach these safety problems as a mechanical engineer.

Frank comes from a very musical family, his mother is a professor of music education at Berklee College of Music and his brother works as a concert promoter for major artists. He began playing the tuba at a young age and ended up playing the drums in punk rock bands. His father worked as an electrical engineer and the combination of music and engineering influenced him a great deal.

Frank can be found in the Engineering Library at UC Berkeley, completing lengthy problem sets while daydreaming of sailing on the SF Bay or hiking with his wife Victoria and dog Butters.

Artists Statement

My career has been at the intersection between music, performance, visual art, and engineering. The problems that I find most interesting are generally from a combination of these fields. I am continuing this tradition through this multi-disciplinary and collaborative effort.

This work will expand the public music mission of the Campanile Carillon, by expanding access to music for those that may not enjoy it in a traditional manner and by producing a new approach for those that do. This project will transform the Campanile into the world’s largest visual instrument.