

Lauren Spencer

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IN BRIEF

Meticulous and adaptable London-based developer with a background in startup operations and maths-based music research, looking for demanding junior dev role beginning July 2015. Love Ruby and JavaScript, but up for anything!

WEB DEV SKILLS

Tools & Process

- I've worked in agile teams utilising scrums
- Comfortable with concepts of version control and have experience with collaborative Git
- I love learning through pair programming and am currently working with friends to explore TDD through ping pong

Back-end

- I've worked with Ruby on Rails, prototyping apps to provided specifications
- I'm familiar with PostgreSQL database queries
- I have experience integrating APIs, and have built apps that interact extensively with Twitter and Google Maps

Front-end

- I write well-structured HTML and CSS
- I write unobtrusive JavaScript with jQuery
- I've played with the Angular.js framework
- I'm familiar with Ajax requests

WORK IN TECH

General Assembly, Web Dev Immersive Teaching Assistant (ongoing)

I teach and support students as they learn server and client side languages and frameworks including Ruby on Rails, JavaScript, Ajax, Firebase, Node.js, and CSS/HTML

In April 2015 I graduated from General Assembly's 12-week, full-time Web Dev Immersive course and was then hired to TA for the subsequent cohort. At GA I've learned how to manage the complexity inherent in building sustainable apps. I planned projects and wrote well-factored, readable code while utilising git for version control. I love how each language and framework has a history that influences its structure and uses, and I'm happiest uncovering new ways to organise my code to best utilise a language's strengths and quirks.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

Pints-With-Friends

.herokuapp.com

This app interacts with the Google Maps JavaScript API. Taking into account your and a friend's starting address and travel mode, the app weighs overall travel time and fairness to match you with great spots to meet your friends.

GA-Tic-Tac-Toe

.herokuapp.com

Built during week 4 of the web dev immersive course at GA, this Ruby on Rails app allows you to create an account and play X against the computer playing O. A scoreboard keeps track of user wins.

GetFit-app

.herokuapp.com

Planned and executed with two other developers, this is a site for fitness enthusiasts to come together and explore opportunities to work with trusted instructors. My contributions included managing the Git repository, setting up the Rails backend, and implementing JavaScript functionality.

EDUCATION General Assembly, London

Web Development Immersive (April 2015)

Columbia University, New York, NY

M.Phil. Music Theory (2012)

M.A. Music Theory (2010)

Indiana University, Bloomington

B.A. Honours in Music, with High Distinction (2008)

Major: Music Theory and Oboe Performance

Minor: Spanish

EARLIER WORK

Housekeep Ltd., London, Operations, Jul - Nov 2014

I developed robust and scalable operations procedures. Anticipating the pitfalls of rapid growth, I kept customers smiling, even as their numbers doubled month by month.

Re:Gender, New York City, Operations, autumn 2013/autumn 2011

At this not-for-profit dedicated to ending gender inequality and discrimination, I worked in operations, starting as an intern in 2011 before being hired as staf. I dealt with research, space procurement, and administration for conferences, and after seeing the difficulties that labour-intensive processes caused staff, I took the initiative to move registration, payment and invoicing online.

Columbia Teaching Fellow, Music Humanities course, 2012-13

As a researcher and teacher I am adept at making technical material easy to understand. I introduced undergrads to new music through concerts, readings and visualisation of musical structures, communicating with precision, clarity and flair.

FREE TIME

Codebar Coach, London, ongoing

I chat Ruby, JavaScript, debugging and more with less-experienced coders at weekly events

Spring into Code Volunteer, London, April 2015

A weekend organised by GeekGirlMeetup and Girls In Tech where I assisted introducing 100 novices to the world of coding

Sonya Kovalevsky Mathematics Day Instructor, 2012-2013

Led workshops on maths and music for high school girls at Columbia University

Columbia Tango Club President, 2009-2012

Transformed ad hoc social events into a professionalised club

‘Current Musicology’ Editorial Board Member, 2008-2010

Reviewed and edited papers submitted for publication in leading music journal

ACADEMIC

AWARDS

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 2008-2012

Highly competitive national award providing full scholarship and stipend for graduate studies at my choice of institution

Columbia University

Travel grant for academic research in Berlin, Germany (summer 2011)

Grant to complete masters thesis (summer 2009)

OTHER SKILLS

Conversational Spanish, basic French

FOR FUN

When I'm not taming asynchronous JavaScript behaviour or basking in the clarity of great Ruby code you can find me competing with myself in the pilates studio and occasionally indulging in whisky-based cocktails.