

ALUMNI PROFILE

Plymouth-Salem
Class of 1993

Favorite Radio Format: World Music

Favorite Artist: Grateful Dead

Favorite Song: "Strange Victory" (Silver Jews), "A New Career in a New Town" (David Bowie)

Favorite Movie: anything by The Coen Brothers

Favorite TV Show: Good Times

Favorite Book: A Prayer for Owen Meany (John Irving)

Hobbies: Playing / making music (guitar, drums), cycling, othello, Dylan-ology

Where has life taken you since you left WSDP?

College and an interest in urban life drew me to Chicago, IL in 1996. From 2003-2013 I worked as a booking agent,



Derek Becker

representing an eclectic and international roster of artists. During that time I started two booking agencies (one as a partnership with Drag City), agented for The Windish Agency, and booked the first and only Silver Jews tours. WSDP alum Paul Phelps and I shared a client as well (Detroit-based Judah Johnson). I retired from the music business in 2013 in order to spend more time with my family - and to make time to play music instead of watching other people do it. I am currently preparing for the 20 year reunion concert of my former band, Mother Hubbard (in Ypsilanti, MI on March 21). After that I will begin a paraprofessional position at Chicago Public Schools.

What is your favorite memory of your time at the station?

I've many fond memories of hanging out with the WSDP crew in the staff room, but my favorite memory is of the time that local singer-songwriter (and friend) Hugh Duncan came to the station to be interviewed and perform a few of his songs live on the air. It was exciting to expose such a brilliant artist to new ears via WSDP.

Why was being involved at WSDP important for you?

Working at WSDP gave me a better understanding of how independent and non-profit radio stations operate.

The cooperative and "labor of love" ethos of and environment at WSDP in 1993 demonstrated that following one's interests and passions cooperatively and wisely is a worthwhile and satisfying endeavor.

What advice would you give to our current students?

Take the scenic route. Find ways to enjoy and learn from, and bring your true self to every aspect of your work and play at WSDP. Finally, find and play new and interesting music on the air.

Top of the Charts on 88.1 The Park

Taylor Swift – Style

Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars – Uptown Funk

Meghan Trainor – Lips Are Movin'

Ella Henderson – Ghost

Taylor Swift – Blank Space

Ed Sheeran – Thinking Out Loud

One Republic – I Lived

Fall Out Boy – Centuries