

# MUSIC

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Research

K-12 schools, public and private  
Colleges and universities  
Conservatories  
Daycare centers  
Recreation centers  
Children's music programs (franchises, local)

Acquire teaching certificate for public school teaching. Learn about requirements by state.  
Earn a graduate degree to teach in higher education. Specialize in an area such as music theory, composition, music history, etc.  
Performance skill on one instrument or voice is required.  
Gain experience working with children through volunteer or part-time work experiences.  
Join the National Association for Music Education as a collegiate member.  
Develop business relationships with schools and/or music stores to increase client base.

Private Lessons

Studios  
Self-employed

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#### PERFORMANCE

Instrumental  
Vocal

Orchestras:  
    Philharmonic, symphony, and chamber  
Armed Forces bands and orchestras  
Small ensembles  
Rock or jazz groups  
Dance bands  
Concert soloist  
Clubs and restaurants  
Church choirs  
Community choral groups  
Opera companies  
Musical theaters  
Ballet productions  
Recording industry  
Radio, television, and motion picture industries  
Cruise lines  
Amusement parks

Develop musical talent and skill.  
Obtain formal training to acquire necessary skills, knowledge, and ability to interpret music.  
Demonstrate ambition and showmanship.  
Join campus bands and choruses, church choirs, and other performing acts.  
Seek competitions, apprenticeship programs, and workshops to gain experience and recognition.  
Auditions are generally required to join bands or get jobs.  
Be willing to move to a large city with more opportunities such as New York City, Los Angeles, Nashville, Las Vegas, or Chicago.  
Network with people in the industry to learn about potential jobs.  
Opportunities are very limited. Most performers have other careers.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**CONDUCTING**

Directing  
Planning  
Leading  
Musician Selection

Orchestras:  
    Philharmonic, symphony, and chamber  
Armed Forces bands and orchestras  
Various bands  
Choirs  
Choral groups  
Opera companies  
Musical theater companies

Develop superior musicianship and leadership.  
Acquire extensive experience in performing groups.  
Develop advanced site-reading skills.  
Learn other languages such as French, German, Latin, and Italian.  
Gain acceptance into a conductor-training program or related apprenticeship.  
Opportunities are extremely limited.

**COMPOSING/ARRANGING**

Composing  
Arranging

Self-employed  
Record companies  
Publishers  
Muzak  
Motion picture and television industries  
Production companies  
Orchestras:  
    Philharmonic, symphony, and chamber  
Opera companies  
Musical theater groups  
Ballet troupes  
Broadway

Knowledge of composition, harmony, arranging, and theory are important.  
Skill on one or more instruments and voice are necessary. Play an instrument in a professional arena.  
Become familiar with all types of music productions.  
Learn how to use electronic instruments and synthesizers.  
Develop computer and desktop publishing expertise.  
Attend music conferences and workshops.  
Seek grants and awards through foundations, e.g. one from the National Endowment of the Arts.  
Very few musicians earn living through composing.

**MUSIC LIBRARIES**

Colleges and universities  
Conservatories  
Public libraries  
Radio and television stations  
Motion picture studies

Develop computer and research skills.  
Gain thorough knowledge of music and musicology.  
Earn a master's degree in library/information science.  
Work in a campus or public library to gain relevant experience.  
Develop good organizational and technology skills.  
Learn to understand foreign languages, particularly Italian, Latin, German, and French.  
Join the Music Library Association.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### COMMUNICATIONS (BROADCASTING)

Music and Program Direction  
On Air Performance  
Promotion  
Voice Overs  
Copyright/Clearance Administration  
Music License Administration  
Music Editing, Production, and Composing  
Sound Mixing  
Post Production  
Research

Radio and television stations  
Virtual reality sound environments  
e.g. Internet sites, software creators

Take classes in communications, broadcasting, or journalism.  
Work at on-campus radio station.  
Complete an internship at a television or radio station.  
Develop computer-related skills such as software development and programming.

### MUSIC THERAPY

Hospitals: general and psychiatric  
Special education facilities  
Mental health centers  
Nursing homes and senior centers  
Rehabilitation centers  
Correctional facilities  
Private practice  
Outpatient clinics  
Schools

Take courses in psychology, social work, or education.  
Earn a master's degree in music therapy and seek certification.  
Volunteer in a rehabilitation setting.  
Demonstrate a genuine interest in helping people.  
Learn to work well with all types of people.  
Develop a broad array of musical talents.

### BEHIND THE SCENES

Audio Technician  
Boom Operator  
General Director  
Music Video Producer  
Recording Engineer  
Set Up  
Recordist  
Rerecording Mixer  
Sound Engineer  
Sound Technician  
Sound/Production Mixer  
Stage Manager

Local bands  
Regional bands  
Production companies  
Theater groups  
Orchestras  
Armed Forces  
Radio, television, and motion picture industries

Shadow an individual who is in the music industry in an area of interest.  
Volunteer in community, school, or church productions.  
Gain expertise in the areas of musical and technical knowledge, sound board, and sound equipment.  
Take courses in areas such as broadcasting, engineering, or computer science to learn technical skills.  
Complete an internship with a recording company or other relevant organization.  
Research seminars, workshops, and professional associations that could provide useful information or contacts.  
Check trade journals and association bulletins for possible employment.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### MUSIC INDUSTRY/BUSINESS

Publishing and Editing  
Producing  
Recording  
Engineering  
Manufacturing  
Talent Acquisition  
Artist/Talent Representation  
Promotion/Media Relations  
Publicity  
Administration  
Marketing  
Booking  
Product Management  
Business Management  
Retail Sales

Production recording studios (most located in New York City, Los Angeles, and Nashville)  
Music management groups  
Agencies  
Music and record stores  
Instrument manufacturers

Complete an internship at a record company.  
Take business courses to work in management or administration.  
Journalism, public relations, and communication classes are helpful for work in areas of promotion.  
Gain sales experience for marketing. Learn to interact well with people and develop persuasion tools.  
Knowledge of electronics, audio engineering, and recording knowledge required for production.  
Work or volunteer at a campus or local radio station.  
Join organizations involved with bringing events and entertainment to campus.  
Work at a retail record store to learn about the industry.  
Volunteer to help promote a local or campus band with their promotions and bookings.  
Gain a broad knowledge of music and the industry.  
Build a strong network of contacts.  
Develop skills such as negotiation, assertiveness, the ability to recognize talent, and working under pressure.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Music Journalism  
  
Law  
  
Music Analysis

Music-related publications  
Magazines and newspapers  
Entertainment or music focused Internet sites  
Entertainment law firms  
Production companies

Take courses in journalism and English.  
Write articles for campus newspaper.  
Prepare for law school and earn a law degree (J.D.)  
For music analysis:  
Develop the ability to read and transcribe well.  
Gain knowledge with use of high tech digital computers to analyze music.  
Move to a larger city where more opportunities exist.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Majoring in music provides students with a sense of aesthetics and an understanding of human expression valuable to many employers.
- Develop competencies in business management, computers, marketing, or other areas to broaden range of employment possibilities.
- Finding positions in the music industry requires a combination of talent, training, connections and some luck. Perseverance is required!
- Develop a variety of skills. Become "multitalented."
- As an undergraduate, gain as much experience as possible, paid or unpaid, through college and local organizations. Seek internships or volunteer positions with relevant organizations.
- Confidence, personality, a positive attitude, and a love of music are important to success in many arenas of music. Learn basic tools of self-promotion.
- Some jobs may require you to join unions or guilds. Research the industry to learn which ones are appropriate.
- Performers often travel frequently and must be flexible regarding their work schedules.
- Move to a larger city such as Los Angeles, New York, Nashville, or Chicago to find more job opportunities.