Introduction

If you love music, finding a career within this field will be very rewarding to you. Not only do you get to do what you enjoy but you are getting paid for it. Students who graduate with a degree in music have a large variety of fields open to them. These include careers in performing arts, education, business, the recording industry, and other music oriented fields.

“Life without music would be a mistake.” – Friedrich Nietsche

“After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.” – Aldous Huxley

“I don’t know anything about music. In my line you don’t have to.” – Elvis Presley

“I’ll play it first and tell what is later.” – Miles Davis

Functional Skill Set for Music Majors:

- Creativity
- Entertaining skills
- Observation skills
- Humbleness
- Good stage presence
- Performance techniques
- Poise
- Ability to read and write music
- Ability to keep audience’s interests
- Communication skills

- Self-discipline
- Physical stamina
- Ability to use various sound equipment
- Singing/instrumental talents
- Perseverance
- Basic reading, writing, editing skills
- Versatility
- Teaching abilities
- Adaptability and flexibility
Related Career Titles for Music Majors:

- Academic Advisor
- Academic Dean
- Architectural Acoustic Monitor
- Armed Forces Band Member
- Arranger
- Artist & Repertoire (A&R) Person
- Artist/Vocalist
- Artistic Director
- Arts Administrator
- Booking Agent
- Broadcast/Theater Technical Director
- Business Attorney/Agent
- Cabaret Entertainer
- Cantor
- Choral Director
- Church Music Director
- Church Musician
- Coach/Accompanist
- College/University Administrator
- Community Development
- Composer
- Concert Master/Mistress
- Concert Musician
- Concert Promoter
- Conductor
- Contractor Music Specialty
- Copyright Specialist
- Copywriter
- Costume Designer
- Cruise Director
- Disc Jockey
- Disk Jockey
- Engineer/Mixer
- Ethno-Musicologist
- Event Music Consultant
- Film Music Editor
- House/Stage Manager
- Instrument Maker
- Instrument Repairer
- Instrument Tuner/Technician
- Instrumentalist
- Interpreter/Translator
- Journalist
- Light Technician
- Lighting Designer/Director
- Lyricist
- Manufacturers Representative
- Media Production Specialist
- Military Occupations
- Multimedia Consultant
- Music Attorney
- Music Business Attorney
- Music Copyist
- Music Critic
- Music Director/Conductor
- Music Editor
- Music Historian
- Music Librarian
- Music Professor
- Music Promoter
- Music Publisher
- Music Publishing Specialist
- Music Reporter
- Music Software Programmer
- Music Store Manager
- Music Stringer
- Music Teacher
- Music Therapist
- Musicologist
- Orchestra Conductor
- Orchestra Librarian
- Orchestra/Opera Company Mgr.
- Orchestral Conductor
- Percussionist
- Performer
- Piano Tuner
- Private Teacher
- Producer
- Program Director
- Promotion Manager
- Public Relations Specialist
- Publicist
- Publicity Director
- Radio/Television Manager
- Radio/Television Manager
- Radio/Television Music Director
- Record Engineer/Technician
- Record Producer
- Recording Technician
- Recreation Director
- Road Manager
- Royalties Broadcast Monitor
- Sales Representative
- Set/Stage Designer
- Singer
- Small Business Owner
- Sound Effects Technician
- Sound Technician
- Staff Publicist

- Stage Director
- Stage Technician
- Studio Engineer
- Studio Musician
- Synthesizer Specialist
- Talent Agent
- Technical Writer
- Television/Radio Industry
- Theater Manager
- Theater Producer
- Ticket Agent/Clerk
- Tour Coordinator
- Tour Manager
- Travel/Tourism Occupations
- Union Contractor
- Video Director/Jockey
- Vocalist/Singer
- Voice Teacher
- Wedding Consultant

**Some Organizations that Typically Employ Music Majors:**

| Armed Forces bands and orchestras | Hospitals: general and psychiatric |
| Art galleries                     | Hotels |
| Bars                              | Instrument manufacturers |
| Casinos                          | Instrument repair shops |
| Choirs                           | Instrument stores |
| Choral groups                    | Magazines and newspapers |
| Church choirs                    | Mental health centers |
| Clubs and restaurants            | Motion picture and television |
| Coffee shops                     | industries |
| Colleges and universities         | Multimedia/Videogame Companies |
| Commercial/non-profit theater     | Music libraries |
| Community choral groups           | Music publishing companies |
| Concert halls                     | Music shops |
| Conservatories                   | Music-related publications |
| Correctional facilities           | Nursing homes |
| Cruise ships                     | Opera |
| Dance band                       | Opera chorus or soloist |
| Daycare centers                  | Private parties/events |
| Elementary and secondary schools  | Production companies |
| Entertainment law firms           | |
Production recording studios (most located in NYC, Los Angeles, and Nashville)  
Public libraries  
Public school systems  
Publishers  
Radio and television stations  
Radio, television, and motion picture industries  
Record companies  
Record shops  
Recording industry  
Resorts  
Rock or jazz group  
Self-employed  
Small ensembles  
Special education facilities  
Studios  
Symphonies  
Symphony orchestras  
Theme parks

**Start a Strategic Plan:**

Seek competitions, apprenticeship programs, and workshops to gain experience and recognition.  
Join campus, bands and choruses, church choirs and other performing acts.  
Work at on-campus radio station.  
Complete an internship at a television or radio station.  
Work at a retail record store to learn about the industry.  
Get sales experience. Work in a retail music outlet.  
Obtain certification to teach in schools.  
Apply for advanced degree in area of special interest.

**Professional Organizations and Associations for Music Majors:**

American Choral Director’s Association  
502 SW 38th St.  
Lawton, OK 73505  
[www.acdaonline.org](http://www.acdaonline.org)

Florida Music Educator’s Association  
207 Office Plaza Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
[www.flmusiced.org](http://www.flmusiced.org)

Music Distributors Association  
262 W. 38th St, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10018-5815  
[www.musicdistributors.org/mda_ovuw.htm](http://www.musicdistributors.org/mda_ovuw.htm)

National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Inc.  
3402 Pico Boulevard  
Santa Monica, CA 90405-2118  
[www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com)
National Association of Teachers of Singing
6406 Merrill Road, Suite B
Jacksonville, FL  32277

American Federation of Musicians of the U.S. and Canada
1501 Broadway, Suite 600
New York, NY  10036
www.afm.org

MENC: The National Association for Music Education
1806 Robert Fulton Dr.
Reston, VA  20191
www.menc.org

Music Teacher National Association
441 Vine St., Suite 505
Cincinnati, OH  45202-2814
www.mtna.org/flash.html

National Association of Music Merchants
5790 Armada Dr.
Carlsbad, CA  92008
www.namm.com

Acoustical Society of America
http://asa.aip.org

American Music Therapy Association
http://www.musictherapy.org

Music Library Association
http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/

Music Educators National Conference (MENC)
http://www.menc.org

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## MUSIC

### What can I do with this major?

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<th>AREAS</th>
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<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>K-12 schools, public and private</td>
<td>Acquire teaching certificate for public school teaching. Learn about requirements by state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Earn a graduate degree to teach in higher education. Specialize in an area such as music theory,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conservatories</td>
<td>composition, music history, etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daycare centers</td>
<td>Performance skill on one instrument or voice is required.</td>
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<td>Recreation centers</td>
<td>Gain experience working with children through volunteer or part-time work experiences.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Children’s music programs (franchises, local)</td>
<td>Join the National Association for Music Education as a collegiate member.</td>
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<td>Private Lessons</td>
<td>Studios</td>
<td>Develop business relationships with schools and/or music stores to increase client base.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Self-employed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PERFORMANCE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>Orchestras:</td>
<td>Develop musical talent and skill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocal</td>
<td>Philharmonic, symphony, and chamber</td>
<td>Obtain formal training to acquire necessary skills, knowledge, and ability to interpret music.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Armed Forces bands and orchestras</td>
<td>Demonstrate ambition and showmanship.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Small ensembles</td>
<td>Join campus bands and choruses, church choirs, and other performing acts.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rock or jazz groups</td>
<td>Seek competitions, apprenticeship programs, and workshops to gain experience and recognition.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dance bands</td>
<td>Auditions are generally required to join bands or get jobs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Concert soloist</td>
<td>Be willing to move to a large city with more opportunities such as New York City, Los Angeles,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clubs and restaurants</td>
<td>Nashville, Las Vegas, or Chicago.</td>
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<td>Church choirs</td>
<td>Network with people in the industry to learn about potential jobs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Community choral groups</td>
<td>Opportunities are very limited. Most performers have other careers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Opera companies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Musical theaters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ballet productions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Recording industry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Radio, television, and motion picture industries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cruise lines</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amusement parks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Areas

**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

**Employers:**
- 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

**Employers:**
- 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

**Employers:**
- 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.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNICATIONS (BROADCASTING)</strong></td>
<td>Radio and television stations</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music and Program Direction</td>
<td>Virtual reality sound environments e.g. Internet sites, software creators</td>
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<td>On Air Performance</td>
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<td>Promotion</td>
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<td>Voice Overs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copyright/Clearance Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music License Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Editing, Production, and Composing</td>
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<td>Sound Mixing</td>
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<td>Post Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MUSIC THERAPY</strong></td>
<td>Hospitals: general and psychiatric Special education facilities Mental health centers Nursing homes and senior centers Rehabilitation centers Correctional facilities Private practice Outpatient clinics Schools</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEHIND THE SCENES</strong></td>
<td>Local bands Regional bands Production companies Theater groups Orchestras Armed Forces Radio, television, and motion picture industries</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Audio Technician</td>
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<td>Boom Operator</td>
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<td>General Director</td>
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<td>Music Video Producer</td>
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<td>Recording Engineer</td>
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<td>Set Up</td>
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<td>Recorders</td>
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<td>Rerecording Mixer</td>
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<td>Sound Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Technician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound/Production Mixer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Areas

**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

### Employers

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

### Strategies

- 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
- Music-related publications
- Magazines and newspapers

#### Law
- Entertainment or music focused Internet sites
- Entertainment law firms

#### Music Analysis
- Production companies

#### EMPLOYERS

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

#### STRATEGIES

- 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. Perserverance 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.