Major Possibilities: Music

Career Services
Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas
Prothro Center 1st Floor, 512.863.1346, 512.863.1270 fax
career.services@southwestern.edu
www.southwestern.edu/careers
Here to help you get ahead.

Summary

- A bachelor's degree in music, with its emphasis on performance, analysis, and critical interpretation, provides a foundation for careers in education, business, communications, and the arts.
- While music is a performing art, few individuals are able to support themselves as full-time musicians. Many music majors elect to combine performing with jobs that allow them to be closely related to music in the workplace.
- The study of music develops skills ranging from musical expression to analysis of musical works. Music also develops the ability to concentrate intensely, to listen introspectively, observe keenly, work under pressure, meet deadlines, and to maintain composure when faced with the unexpected.

Music major synopsis

Within the Music curriculum, students may develop a high degree of proficiency in one or more instruments and study significant musical masterpieces from the Renaissance to the modern era in order to gain an understanding of the creative processes involved in composition and performance. They will also gain an appreciation for the role of music in both Western and non-Western cultures. The Music Department offers two degrees, the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Music, and the Bachelor of Music with four possible emphases: Education, Literature, Performance, and Theory/Composition. Students can pursue teacher certification in music education as well. An audition/interview is required for all students desiring admission to a music degree program. Two music theory courses, Solfege/Ear Training and Music Theory I: Harmony in Practice, are required for all Music students.

Sample occupational areas

Music Industry
The music industry encompasses many career fields, including communication, business, sales, manufacturing, publishing, and more. The recording industry is also included in this category. Graduates who go into the music industry usually also have experience in business. The recording industry is huge, including technological careers that deal with the studio work of recording, production careers that include the duplication and packaging of the recordings and promotional material, and administrative careers that deal with promotion, research, and budgeting. Careers are also available dealing with sales or legal issues.

Performance
It is difficult to to professionally perform music of any kind. Advice given repeatedly is to develop musical talent, ambition, and showmanship. It is important to find internships, workshops, and competitions in which to participate and gain recognition. Research the performance options in your own community, read the local newspapers' calendar sections, and look for the entertainment listings on the web for your town, city, or region. All performance careers start locally!

Media
There are many types of media in which a graduate with a degree in music can become involved: television, radio, internet, newspapers, magazines, and more. Careers are available in a variety of fields within each type of media. There are jobs in composition, scoring, production, editing, clearing copyrights, licensing, criticism, journalism, and performance. In order to jump ahead of the competition, many students take classes in journalism, communication, or broadcasting. Completing an internship at a television or radio station may also help in finding a job after graduation.

Arts Management
Arts organizations, like most for-profit companies and non-profit organizations, have a number of administrative, business, or management functions. These roles require people with creativity and an understanding and passion for the arts, as well as skills in a range of areas from finance and marketing to education. Opera companies, concert halls, theaters, and symphonies and choirs are all in need of managers and other administrative workers to write press releases, market the productions in the community, and create visibility, among other things.

Other

Composers often write works on commission. They may create music for movies, jingles, multi-media projects, CD-ROMs, Broadway revues, or they may arrange the work of other composers. Composers need knowledge of the latest technology in computer publishing and composing. They should also know how to play more than one instrument.

Conductors may not only conduct and perform, but also involve themselves in programming, supervising personnel, and working in educational programs. At the level of the smaller community and metropolitan orchestras, the conductor may have to function as a jack-of-all-trades, raising funds, rehearsing, scheduling, and performing.

Music therapists use music to restore, maintain, or improve physical or mental health. They can be found at hospitals, treatment centers, nursing homes, hospices, rehabilitation centers, prisons, and mental health clinics. Students should take classes in psychology and education and volunteer in rehabilitation settings.

Music teachers can teach at elementary or secondary schools as well as in colleges or universities or private studios. Students interested in becoming teachers should acquire a teaching certificate and gain experience working with children through volunteer or part time work.

Music librarians can be found in public and academic libraries, radio and television stations, music publishers, and professional music associations. They can work with collections of music books, recordings, musical scores, and periodicals associated with music.

Music critics are a unique combination of journalist and musician. Their views are published daily and affect both their audience and the music which they critique. Nearly half of music critics have earned at least a master's degree.

Sample job titles

Arts, Media and Entertainment
Advertising Executive
Arranger
Choir Director
Composer
Conductor
Critic
Disc Jockey
Film Music Editor
Music Director
Music Librarian
Performer
Promoter
Publishing Specialist
Recording Technician
Reporter
Software Programmer
Sound Engineer/Mixer
Therapist

Industry and Commerce
Acoustical Engineer
Architectural Acoustic Monitor
Community Development Specialist
Copyist
Copyright Specialist
Instrument Service & Repair
Music Store Manager
PR Specialist
Private Instructor
Software Programmer
Stringer

Government, Service & Educ.
AmeriCorps Volunteer
Attorney
Church Choir Director
Church Organist
Ethnomusicologist
Language Teacher
Music Director
Music Teacher
Musicologist
University Professor

Sample internship employers of SU students

American Institute of Musical Studies (Austria)
American Symphony Orchestra (Washington, DC)
The American University (Washington, DC)
Astralwerks Music Label (Manhattan, NY)
Austin Lyric Opera (Austin, TX)
First United Methodist Church (Georgetown, TX)
Georgetown High School Music Department (Georgetown, TX)
GLCA: Good Music (Sony BMG) (New York, NY)
Glimmerglass Opera (Cooperstown, NY)
Kennedy Center for Performing Arts (Washington, DC)
Lyric Opera of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
The Magazine Publishers of America
Maine State Music Theatre (Brunswick, ME)
The Museum of Modern Art
Pace University (New York, NY)
Rock-It Science Music (Hollywood, CA)

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Accreditation and Research Assistant (National Association of Schools of Music)
AmeriCorps Volunteer
Assistant Choir Director (Canyon ISD)
Assistant Director (Language Stars)
Associate Instructor (Indiana University)
Band Director (Troy ISD)
Customer Service Representative (Guaranty Bank)
Choir Director (Alvin ISD)
Credit Services Assistant
Director of Music (First Presbyterian Church)
Educational Instruction Director (National Notary Association)
English Teacher (Fulbright Scholarship)
Mortgage Servicing (Bank of America)
Music Specialist (Georgetown ISD)
Music Teacher (KIPP 3D Academy)
Office Manager (Fired Up)
Program Coordinator (The Woodlands Township)
Technician (Sullico)
Technical Support Specialist (Southwestern University ITS)
Touring Technical Director (Kennedy Center)
Voice & Piano Instructor (Albertson School of Music)

Professional associations

American Federation of Musicians: www.afm.org
American Guild of Musical Artists: www.musicalartists.org
American Music Therapy Association: www.musictherapy.org
American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers: www.ascap.com
American Music Therapy Association: www.musictherapy.org/careers/employment/
Delta Omicron, Intern'l. Music Fraternity: www.delta-omicron.org
International Computer Music Assoc.: www.computermusic.org
National Association for Musical Education: www.nafme.org
Production Music Association: www.pmamusic.com
Recording Industry Association of America: www.riaa.com
Songwriters Guild of America: www.songwritersguild.com

Additional Web resources

Careers in Music: www.careersinmusic.com/
A Career Guide for Music Majors: www.utexas.edu/cofa/career/media/musicguide.pdf
Music Jobs: www.music-jobs.com
Music Industry Career Center: www.music-careers.com
U.S. Navy Music Program: www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic
Warner Brothers, Careers: www.warnerbroscareers.com
Berklee College of Music: Careers: www.berklee.edu/careers/
Artists House Music: www.artistshousemusic.org/
Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov/ooh/Entertainment-and-Sports/Musicians-and-singers.htm

Career Services' print resources

100 Careers in the Music Business
All You Need to Know About the Music Business
Beyond Talent: Creating a Successful Career in Music
Career Opportunities in Education and Related Services
Career Opportunities in Journalism
Career Opportunities in the Music Industry
Career Opportunities in Theatre and the Performing Arts
Careers for Music Lovers and Other Tuneful Types
Careers in Social & Rehabilitation Services
Great Jobs for Music Majors
How to Be a Working Musician
Opportunities in Music Careers
Singing for Your Supper
This Business of Music
Vault Career Guide to Media and Entertainment