

Major Possibilities: Music



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 five possible emphases: Education, Literature, Performance, Sacred Music and Theory/Composition. An audition/interview is required for all students desiring admission to a music degree program.

Sample occupational areas

Music Industry

The music industry encompasses many career fields in 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 get into the music industry 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	Music/Orchestra Librarian	Architectural Acoustic Monitor	Stringer
Arranger	Performer	Community Development Specialist	
Artist & Repertoire	Promoter	Copyist	Government, Service & Educ.
Choir Director	Publishing Specialist	Copyright Specialist	Church Choir Director
Composer	Recording Technician	Instrument Service & Repair	Church Organist
Conductor	Reporter	Music Attorney	Ethnomusicologist
Critic	Software Programmer	Music Store Manager	Music Director
Disc Jockey	Therapist	PR Specialist	Music Librarian
Engineer/Mixer		Software Programmer	Musicologist
Film Music Editor	Industry and Commerce	Store Manager	Teacher
Music Director	Acoustical Consultant		University Professor

Sample internship employers of SU students

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

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

Assistant Choir Director	Office Manager (Fired Up)
Assistant Director (Language Stars)	Piano Teacher
Associate Instructor (Indiana University)	Sales Assistant
Customer Service Representative	Temporary Actress/Costumer
Credit Services Assistant	Technician (Sullico)
Mortgage Servicing	Technical Support Specialist
Music Teacher	Touring Technical Director (Kennedy Center)
Music Director	Violinist/Violin Instructor (Self-employed)

Professional associations

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

Additional Web resources

A Career Guide for Music Majors: <http://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

Career Services' print resources

100 Careers in the Music Business	Great Jobs for Music Majors, 2nd Edition
All You Need to Know About the Music Business	How to be a Working Musician
Beyond Talent: Creating a Successful Career in Music	Opportunities in Music Careers
Career Opportunities in the Music Industry	This Business of Music
Careers for Music Lovers and Other Tuneful Types	