



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Major Possibilities: Music

Quick Facts

- 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.
- Internships can help shape professional identities, develop 21st century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.
- 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 is a performance art, and few individuals support themselves as full-time musicians. Many music majors combine performing with jobs that allow them to stay connected to music, even if they're not actively making music to make a living.

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, accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, 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. Music majors must pass the Sophomore Barrier Examination and keyboard proficiency examination to continue study.

Sample Occupational Areas

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, 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.

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 challenging to perform any kind of music professionally. 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.

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

Arranger
Choir Director
Composer
Conductor
Critic
Disc Jockey
Film Music Editor
Music Director

Music Librarian
Performer
Promoter
Publishing Specialist
Recording Technician
Reporter
Sound Engineer/Mixer
Therapist
Voice Teacher

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Acoustical Engineer
Architectural Acoustic Monitor
Copyist
Copyright Specialist
Instrument Service & Repair
Music Store Manager
Software Programmer
Stringer

GOVERNMENT, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION

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)
Astralwerks Music Label (Manhattan, NY)
Austin Lyric Opera (Austin, TX)
First United Methodist Church (Georgetown, TX)
Georgetown High School Music Department (Georgetown, TX)

Glimmerglass Opera (Cooperstown, NY)
Good Music (Sony BMG) (New York, NY)
Kennedy Center for Performing Arts (Washington, DC)
Lyric Opera of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
Rock-It Science Music (Hollywood, CA)
South By Southwest (Austin, TX)

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

Accreditation & Research Asst. (Nat'l. Assoc. of Schools of Music)
Assistant Choir Director (Canyon ISD)
Associate Instructor (Indiana University)
Band Director (Troy ISD)
Choir Director (Alvin ISD)
Choir Director (Cypress-Fairbanks ISD)
Director of Music (First Presbyterian Church)

English Teacher (Fulbright Program)
Music Specialist (Georgetown ISD)
Music Teacher (KIPP 3D Academy)
Orchestra Director (Comal ISD)
Touring Technical Director (Kennedy Center)
Voice & Piano Instructor (Albertson School of Music)
Voice Teacher - Georgetown Music Studio

Professional Associations

American Federation of Musicians

American Guild of Musical Artists

American Music Therapy Association

American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers

Delta Omicron, International Music Fraternity

International Computer Music Association

National Association for Music Education

Production Music Association

Recording Industry Association of America

Songwriters Guild of America