WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … MUSIC

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
“Music can be a form of communication, artistic expression, entertainment, therapy, and worship. Within the broad field of music, there are many areas of specialization. A concentration in music, with its emphasis on performance, analysis, and critical interpretation, provides a foundation for careers in education, business, communication, and the arts” (from the University of Texas – Austin Fine Arts Career Services website). At UNM, students can earn a Bachelor of Arts in Music, a Bachelor of Music (emphases in performance, composition and theory, jazz studies, string pedagogy) or a Bachelor of Music Education (instrumental or vocal track that leads to Level 1 Licensure in K-12 Music in the State of New Mexico).

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
A bachelor’s degree is required for most areas of music, and a graduate degree may be required for some areas. The skills learned through this type of degree program can be applied to a broad range of careers. Music “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. Well-developed communication skills, along with aural sensitivity, enable graduates to contribute and succeed in many professions” (from the University of Texas – Austin Fine Arts Career Services website).

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES:
Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Education: Teaching (K-16) – Private lessons

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Settings:</th>
<th>Daycare centers – Public and private elementary and secondary schools – Colleges and universities – Recreation centers – Music conservatories – Studios - Freelance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suggested Strategy:</td>
<td>Acquire teaching certificate for public school teaching and advanced degree for college teaching. Gain experience working with children through volunteer or work experiences. Gain internship experience in music education or teaching.</td>
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Performance: Professional musician (vocal or instrumental)

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<td>Suggested Strategy:</td>
<td>Seek as many performance opportunities as possible. Connect with other musicians to form ensembles. Be willing to supplement professional performance career with other types of work. Obtain formal training and continue to develop skill.</td>
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Composition/Arrangement: Composing - Arranging

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<th>Employment Settings:</th>
<th>Freelance – Record companies – Publishers – Muzak – Motion pictures and TV – Production companies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Suggested Strategy:</td>
<td>Develop computer and desktop publishing expertise. Develop skills on multiple instruments. Seek grants and awards through foundations.</td>
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Conducting: Conductor

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<th>Employment Settings:</th>
<th>Choirs – Choral groups – Symphonies – Opera – Armed Forces bands/orchestras</th>
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<td>Suggested Strategy:</td>
<td>Acquire extensive experience in performing groups. Gain acceptance into a conductor training program.</td>
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Music Therapy: Music Therapist

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<th>Employment Settings:</th>
<th>Hospitals (general and psychiatric) – Special education facilities – Mental health centers – Rehabilitation hospitals – Nursing homes – Correctional facilities – Private practice – Outpatient clinics – Hospice facilities</th>
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<td>Suggested Strategy:</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with coursework in psychology or education. Earn a master’s degree in music therapy and seek certification. Volunteer in a related setting.</td>
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Music Libraries: Music Librarian

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<th>Employment Settings:</th>
<th>Colleges/universities – Conservatories – Public libraries – Radio/TV stations</th>
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<td>Suggested Strategy:</td>
<td>Gain experience in a library setting. Earn master’s degree in library science.</td>
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Employment Settings: Production recording studios (most are located in New York City, Los Angeles, and Nashville)

Suggested Strategy: Complete an internship at a record company. Take business courses for music management. Journalism, public relations, communications courses helpful for promotions work. Gain sales experience for marketing positions. Knowledge of electronics, audio engineering, and recording knowledge required for production work. Gain experience at a local radio station.


Employment Settings: Radio and TV stations – Virtual reality sound environments (Internet, software creators)

Suggested Strategy: Take courses and/or earn a master’s degree in communications, broadcasting, or journalism for critic positions. Gain experience at local radio or TV station. Develop computer-related skills such as software development and programming.

Arts Administration: Ticket Sales – Financial Manager – Public Relations – Tour manager – Contracts – Fundraising

Employment Settings: Arts organizations – Opera company – Concert Hall - Theatres

Suggested Strategy: Gain experience on the administrative side of an arts organization. Develop strong computer and financial skills. Consider supplementing coursework with classes in business or public relations. Consider a graduate degree in arts management.

SOME TYPICAL EMPLOYERS OF MUSIC GRADUATES:

TV/radio/film
State and federal government agencies
Churches
Colleges/universities
Public and private K-12 schools
Production companies
Theaters
Libraries
Record companies
Cruise lines
Magazines/newspapers
Music publishers
Hospitals
Retail music stores
Entertainment law firms
Software development firms
Instrument manufacturers
Performing arts organizations
Film companies

COMMON GRADUATE SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR MUSIC MAJORS

Master of Music (emphases in performance, composition, theory, music education, musicology), Doctor of Musical Arts (emphases in performance, composition, theory), PhD (emphases in musicology, music education). An undergraduate music degree can also lead to such professional programs as Law, Arts Management, and MBA, amongst others.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

American Federation of Musicians http://afm.org/
American Guild of Musical Artists http://www.musicalartists.org/
Music Business Solutions http://www.mbsolutions.com/
Applause Careers in Music http://www.cnvi.com/applause/
National Association for Music Ed http://www.menc.org/
Music Therapy http://www.musictherapy.org/
About Music Careers http://musicians.about.com/
Arts Opportunities http://www.artsopportunities.org/
Music Professions from Thinkquest http://library.thinkquest.org/15413/professions/professions.htm?qtskip1=1&qttime=0404

http://online.onetcenter.org
http://www.bls.gov/oco/