



## Music Careers

Reference Department - Albert S. Cook Library &  
Music Department – Towson University

There are many music careers that can be pursued with a Bachelor of Science in Music or in combination with another major. Below is a list of career possibilities for music students with suggested web sites for more info. Some of the professional organization sites may offer valuable internships or scholarships. Remember that some careers may require additional courses for certification that are not offered here at Towson University.



### Careers in Education, Libraries, or Healthcare

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School music teacher (need undergraduate music education degree for public but not all private schools, additional 30 credits beyond bachelor's degree required for permanent certification)</li><li>• Private lessons instructor (at home, traveling to student's homes, in studio or store)</li><li>• Music librarian (for educational institution will also require an MLS in Library Science)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Symphony orchestra librarian (need BM and on-the-job training)</li><li>• Library technical services/cataloging clerk</li><li>• Musicologist (need Ph.D.)</li><li>• College level music history/ literature teacher (need Ph.D.)</li><li>• Music therapist (would require additional training/certification)</li><li>• Camp directors, counselors, and teachers</li></ul> |
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#### For more information visit:

Music Library Association - <http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org> – search under “Our Profession”

Major Orchestra Music Librarian Association - <http://mola-inc.org/page/Career>

American Music Therapy Association - <http://www.musictherapy.org/careers/>

American Musicological Association - <http://www.ams-net.org/committees/cr/>

National Assoc. for Music Education - <http://www.nafme.org/>

Music Teachers National Association: [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

National Association of Teachers of Singing: [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org)



## Careers in Music Publishing and Retailing

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Editor of music books, periodicals, music software</li><li>• Newspaper music critic, performing arts reporter</li><li>• Freelance writer for music publications, program notes, CD liner notes</li><li>• Production department assistant - music magazines</li><li>• Musical score publishing company copyist or sales rep.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music database sales/training/support rep.</li><li>• Music materials sales (scores, recordings, instruments)</li><li>• Proofreaders - book publishing companies, magazines</li><li>• Music software programmer</li></ul> |
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### For more information visit:

Music Publishers Association - <http://www.mpaonline.org.uk/> - search under Careers & Training  
National Music Publishers Assn: <http://www.mpa.org/>  
International Association of Music Journalists - <http://www.phantasmagroup.com/fimj.htm>  
Music Critics Association of North America – <http://mcan.org/>  
International Music Products Association - [www.namm.com](http://www.namm.com)  
Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) - <http://www.riaa.com/index.php>

## Careers in Music Performance and Composition

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instrumental performer (solo or ensemble)</li><li>• Music composer</li><li>• Arranger</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conductor</li><li>• Singer (solo or ensemble)</li><li>• Dancer</li></ul> |
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### For more information visit:

American Federation of Musicians - [www.afm.org](http://www.afm.org)  
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists - <http://www.sagaftra.org/>  
American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) - [www.musicalartists.org](http://www.musicalartists.org)  
Actors Equity Association - [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)

## Careers in Music/Entertainment Law

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copyright researcher</li><li>• Paralegal</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lawyer – labor, entertainment, intellectual property</li></ul> |
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### For more information visit:

American Bar Association Forum on Entertainment and Sports Industries:  
[http://www.americanbar.org/groups/entertainment\\_sports.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/entertainment_sports.html)  
National Sports and Entertainment Law Society - <https://www.wcl.american.edu/org/sports/>



### Careers in the Music Industry: Managerial/Marketing

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance person for artists</li> <li>• Talent agent</li> <li>• Arts administrator</li> <li>• Audience research</li> <li>• Business manager for artists</li> <li>• Company manager for tours (recommend stage management training from theatre arts program)</li> <li>• Entertainment director (hotels, cruise ships, caterers)</li> <li>• Market researcher</li> <li>• Orchestra management</li> <li>• Road manager</li> <li>• Manager/booking agent/publicist</li> <li>• Recording producer</li> <li>• Publicist</li> <li>• Concert promoter</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound editor</li> <li>• Recording engineer</li> <li>• Copyright/clearance administrator</li> <li>• Music license administrator</li> <li>• Sales/marketing rep for performing arts organizations</li> <li>• Entrepreneur</li> <li>• Music merchandising (brick &amp; mortar, brick and click, online)</li> <li>• Ticket sales manager or agent</li> </ul> |
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**For more information visit:**

Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association – <http://www.meiea.org>  
 Music Business Association - <http://musicbiz.org/>  
 Record Production - <http://www.recordproduction.com/JOBS.HTM>  
 Association of Arts Administration Educators - [www.artsadministration.org](http://www.artsadministration.org)  
 League of American Orchestras - [www.symphony.org](http://www.symphony.org)  
 Music Manager - [http://education-portal.com/articles/Music\\_Manager\\_Music\\_Management\\_Career\\_Education\\_Overview.html](http://education-portal.com/articles/Music_Manager_Music_Management_Career_Education_Overview.html)

### Careers in Music Stage/TV/Film Production

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranger</li> <li>• Audio technician</li> <li>• Announcer (radio/tv)</li> <li>• Choreographer/dancer</li> <li>• Conductor</li> <li>• Floor manager</li> <li>• Contractor (personnel manager)</li> <li>• Synthesizer programmer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety artist</li> <li>• Scheduler</li> <li>• Music director or pianist for musical theatre</li> <li>• Stage hand</li> <li>• “Roadie”</li> <li>• Sound operator</li> <li>• Light/projection operator</li> </ul> |
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**For more information visit:**

American Federation of Radio and Television Artists: <http://www.sagaftra.org/>  
 International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts: [www.iaatse-intl.org](http://www.iaatse-intl.org)



### Careers in Music in Electronic Media: Radio and Television

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Account executive</li> <li>• Consumer researcher</li> <li>• Disc jockey</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video jockey</li> <li>• Traffic manager</li> </ul> |
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**Note:** a double major or minor in Electronic Media and Film should be considered for these careers

**For more information visit:**

Radio Television Digital News Association - <http://www.rtdna.org/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/home.htm>



### Careers in Music Science/Technology

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer music programmer</li> <li>• Digital audio editor</li> <li>• Digital re-mastering engineer</li> <li>• Equipment designer</li> <li>• Maintenance technician</li> <li>• Mixer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instrument designer/ repairperson/ manufacturer</li> <li>• Multimedia developer</li> <li>• Piano tuner/technician</li> <li>• Studio designer</li> <li>• Acoustician</li> </ul> |
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**For more information visit:**

Piano Technicians Guild: <http://www.ptg.org>

Audio Engineering Society: <http://www.aes.org/>

Society of Professional Audio Recording Services: <http://spars.com/>



### Careers in Music Composition

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Songwriter</li> <li>• Lyricist</li> <li>• Composer - general</li> <li>• Composer - musical theatre</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composer - education materials</li> <li>• Composer - children's music</li> <li>• Video composer</li> <li>• Advertising jingle writer</li> </ul> |
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**Note:** BS in Music with completion of minor in cognate recommended -- perhaps English, Business Administration, or Electronic Media and Film

**For more information visit:**

Songwriter's Guild of America: [www.songwritersguild.com](http://www.songwritersguild.com)

ASCAP: [www.ascap.com](http://www.ascap.com)

BMI: [www.bmi.com](http://www.bmi.com)

### Careers in Music Related Art/Graphic Design

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercial artist</li><li>• Graphic artist</li><li>• Scenic designer</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music calligrapher</li><li>• Music engraver</li><li>• Web site designer</li></ul> |
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**For more information visit:**

American Institute of Graphic Design - <http://www.aiga.org/guide-careerguide>  
Animation World Network: <http://www.awn.com/>



### Careers in Worship/Religious Music

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organist</li><li>• Cantor</li><li>• Children's choir director</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worship band director</li><li>• Worship choir director</li></ul> |
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**For more information visit:**

American Guild of Organists: <http://www.agohq.org/home.html>  
American Choral Directors Association: <http://acda.org/>  
National Association of Church Musicians: <http://www.nacmhq.org/index.htm>



### More Websites with Career Descriptions

**Berklee College of Music - Careers:** <http://www.berklee.edu/careers/>  
**Majoring in Music:** <http://majoringinmusic.com/>  
**Music Careers.net:** <http://www.musiccareers.net/career-articles/>  
**Careers in Music:** <https://www.careersinmusic.com/>  
**Entertainment Careers.net:** <http://www.entertainmentcareers.net>  
**O\*NET Online:** <http://online.onetcenter.org/>  
**Occupational Outlook Handbook:** <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

Students wishing to know more should also consult  
***Careers in Music Booklist: A Resource Guide*** (available on the  
Department of Music website) for suggested books related to music careers.

List compiled by Michael Decker (Department of Music) and  
Lisa Woznicki (Cook Library) of Towson University.  
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