

How will studying music benefit my career?

Music is one of the most varied and diverse subjects with a significant amount of academic and practical skills. Given the vast number of transferable skills encompassed by the subject, it is no surprise that Music is one of the most sought-after degrees by employers and businesses, even those which are not connected with music.

Musicians are perfectionists. Having spent years focused intently on mastering an instrument, they develop high levels of patience, self-discipline, determination and self-motivation – qualities most employers value highly.

Musicians often work well with others. Developing the ability to get along with others in music ensembles involves skills in cooperating, collaborating, compromising and, at times, conforming to the group – skills which are essential in any profession where you must sometimes deal with difficult bosses or co-workers.

Musicians develop excellent leadership skills. As a section leader, conductor or in chamber music ensembles, where the role of leader switches, musicians become comfortable in 'leading the pack'. A keen sense of leadership can help you succeed in many other professions.

Musicians tend to be flexible. Working at night, travelling (which may require coping with stress and exhaustion), and performing in a variety of settings where conditions are often less than ideal, force a musician to adapt to the environment. This training is remarkably helpful when working in chaotic environments or in jobs that require you to respond to crises.

Musicians develop versatility, creativity, poise, and good stage presence. They learn to deal with the stress of performing and being judged by others – a test that many people without

musical training would have extreme difficulty handling. Playing an instrument or singing is deeply personal, which can make negative judgements even harder to take. But, having learned to face these challenges, many trained musicians find speaking in front of a group relatively unthreatening.

Many musicians are good with their hands; some become ambidextrous. And many composers and arrangers now use computers to create their works. These types of skills carry over very well in a job market where technology is becoming ever more important. For example, many pianists have such amazing technique that the processor cannot keep up when they type at a computer keyboard.

Musicians are frequently sensitive and have a keenly developed ear. You must be highly tuned in to your own performance when practicing and must constantly listen to others when you rehearse and perform. These listening skills are imperative when dealing with other people. In fact, they can also be helpful when working with machinery since the technician can sometimes only tell by listening when something is going wrong.

Which careers can music prepare me for?

Music graduates have a wide range of career options available to them both inside and outside the industry, including performer, teacher, administrator, songwriter, conductor, composer, recording engineer, manager, promoter, or music publisher. The range of roles can seem quite endless!

There are also more jobs than ever in music business related areas, such as careers in digital marketing, social media, PR, technology, label services, ticketing and merchandising.

It is also common to find music graduates in consultancy, finance, banking, music therapy and legal jobs.

Further information

The value of a music degree:



Careers in the music industry and beyond:



The valuable transferrable skills gained through studying music:

