

Music

What is the Music Major?

Within the world community, the arts and humanities disciplines have traditionally exerted a major influence upon cultural and intellectual life. Participation in the arts and humanities is a significant factor in broadening a person's vision and human awareness. Education in music is designed to develop a thorough, working knowledge of the field through courses in music history, literature and theory. Musicians extend this knowledge into areas of composition, performance, teaching, research, sales, publications, consultation and management. The undergraduate program in music at Baruch College offers a major in Music with or without a specialization in the Management of Musical Enterprises (which is the Music major combined with twelve credits in business, chosen from courses in economics, finance, management, marketing, law, etc.)

Occupational opportunities

A music degree can lead to three types positions: 1) professional positions, 2) academic positions, and 3) commercial positions. Like all liberal arts majors, it provides a broad, flexible foundation for a variety of occupations or for graduate school. Some possible careers for students who major in music follow:

Professional positions

- Composer
- Performer
- Conductor

Academic positions

- Teaching at the elementary, secondary, collegiate level in the following areas:
- Performance: solo, band, choral, chamber
- Research: musicology, music theory, acoustics, design

Commercial positions

- Sales
- Consultants
- Management

Career Snapshot: Musician

Musicians play musical instruments as part of a group and/or solo. Musicians entertain live audiences in nightclubs, concert halls, and theaters featuring opera, musical theater, or dance. Although most of these entertainers play for live audiences, many perform exclusively for recording or production studios. Regardless of the setting, musicians spend considerable time practicing, alone and with their band, orchestra, or other musical ensemble. Musicians often gain their reputation or professional standing in a particular kind of music or performance. However, those who learn several related instruments, such as the flute and clarinet, and who can perform equally well in several musical styles, have better employment opportunities. Instrumental musicians, for example, may play in a symphony orchestra, rock group, or jazz combo one night, appear in another ensemble the next, and work in a studio band the following day. Work schedules typically involve weekend and night hours. Musicians spend much of the rest of their time in rehearsals. Full-time musicians with long-term employment contracts enjoy steady work and less travel. Because many musicians find only part-time or intermittent work, experiencing unemployment between engagements, they often supplement their income with other types of jobs. The stress of constantly looking for work leads many musicians to accept permanent, full-time jobs in other occupations, while working only part time as musicians. Competition for jobs for musicians, singers, and related workers is expected to be keen. The vast number of persons with the desire to perform will exceed the number of openings. Talent alone is no guarantee of success: many people start out to become musicians or singers, but leave the profession because they find the work difficult, the discipline demanding, and the long periods of intermittent unemployment unendurable.

The Fine and Performing Arts Department is located on the seventh floor of the Newman Vertical Campus in room 7-235. You can contact them at (646) 312-4052.

Music majors typically possess an innate creative ability or musical talent. Individuals who major in an artistic field typically prefer working by creating, innovating, and imagining. These are all areas that require the ability to concentrate, work with ideas and often work alone.

Related Major Skills and Characteristics

- Creativity
- Ability to read, write and edit music
- Singing/instrumental talents
- Entertaining skills
- Ability to keep audience's interests
- Perseverance
- Communication skills
- Self-discipline
- Good stage presence
- Physical stamina
- Teaching abilities
- Performance techniques
- Ability to use various sound equipment
- Adaptability and flexibility

Additional Resources

U.S. Government's Occupational Outlook Handbook
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco>

American Music Therapy Association
www.musictherapy.org

Music Educators National Conference (MENC)
www.menc.org

Music Industry Career Center
www.music-careers.com

Acoustical Society of America
<http://asa.aip.org>

Classic Web Music Jobs
www.classicweb.com/Jobs.htm

Solo Performer – Music Careers
www.soloperformer.com

Chorus America – includes job listings and membership details
www.chorusamerica.org

Entertainment Careers
www.entertainmentcareers.com