WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … MUSIC

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook website: “Musicians and singers play instruments or sing for live audiences and in recording studios. There are no postsecondary education requirements for musicians or singers interested in performing popular music; however, many performers of classical music and opera have at least a bachelor’s degree (2014).”

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). The UNM Department of Music website boasts: “The special attributes of the Department are its artist faculty and a well-balanced program among the disciplines of performance, music education, composition and theory, jazz studies, string pedagogy, contemporary world music, and music history. (2014)

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.

INDUSTRY OPTIONS:

SAMPLE JOB TITLES FOR MUSIC MAJORS:
Professional musician (vocal or instrumental) – Teacher – Composer – Arranger – Conductor – Music Therapist – Music Librarian – Music Producer – Sound Engineer

COMMON GRADUATE SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR MUSIC MAJORS:
Master of Music (emphasis in performance, composition, theory, music education, musicology), Doctor of Musical Arts (emphasis in performance, composition, theory), PhD (emphasis in musicology, music education). An undergraduate music degree can also lead to such professional programs as Law, Arts Management, and MBA, amongst others.

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:
• Develop an online presence documenting your performances for better marketability.
• Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, apprenticeships.
• Play “out” -- Get “gigs” -- Audition, audition, audition – Record, record, record – Compose, compose, compose!
• Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the options available and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events.
• Speak with and develop relationships with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Performance leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
POSSIBLE EMPLOYERS OF MUSIC GRADUATES:

STATE & NATIONAL WAGES:
Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

**MUSIC DIRECTORS:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Pay Period</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>75%</th>
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<td>Hourly</td>
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**NATIONAL WAGES FOR SINGERS:**

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**INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

About Music Careers [http://musicians.about.com/](http://musicians.about.com/)
Arts Opportunities [http://www.artopportunities.org/](http://www.artopportunities.org/)

**OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**


**REFERENCES**


University of New Mexico, Department of Music (2014). Retrieved from http://music.unm.edu/unm_music/