

Music is a liberal arts based program that provides students with broad knowledge and skills regarding music theory, music history and performance. Options for students studying music include pursuing a career as a **vocalist** or **instrumentalist**, integrating their understanding of music into a nonperformance career, or seeking out career opportunities that are not directly related to the music industry. Most students who select music as a major have some aptitude for music or experience studying voice or a musical instrument. A great deal of practice time outside of course requirements is required for a successful career as a musician. Creativity, persistence, and self-discipline are important skills for any aspect of the music industry. In order to increase the marketability of your degree, you may want to supplement your major with courses that can be applied to career fields you are exploring. For example, courses in business may be valuable if you are interested in pursuing the corporate side of music, whereas courses in psychology or social work might be important if you are contemplating a career in **music therapy**. Some broad areas for consideration are: performance, business, composition, education and production.

**Music Directors** conduct, direct, plan, and lead instrumental or vocal performances by musical groups, such as orchestras, choirs, and glee clubs. **Conductors** lead instrumental music groups, such as symphony orchestras, dance bands, show bands, and various popular ensembles. **Choral Directors** lead choirs and glee clubs, sometimes working with a band or orchestra conductor. **Composers** create original music such as symphonies, operas, sonatas, radio and television jingles, film scores, or popular songs. **Arrangers** transcribe and adapt musical composition to a particular style for orchestras, bands, choral groups, or individuals.

The **Music Industry** is broad in scope and encompasses retail, wholesale, manufacturing, importing, exporting, publishing, recording, repair, rebuilding, tuning, and other businesses.

### Transfer Information:

- A Bachelor's degree is entry-level into many of these professions and a Master's degree may be entry-level for some. Those who want to teach performance or vocal music at public elementary, middle or secondary schools must have a teaching certificate in addition to a Bachelor's degree.

### Additional Information:

- Careers in Music: [www.berklee.edu/careers](http://www.berklee.edu/careers)
- Music Industry Career Center: [www.music-careers.com](http://www.music-careers.com)
- Music Professions: [library.thinkquest.org/15413](http://library.thinkquest.org/15413)

