What to do with a degree in ... MUSIC

If you are questioning your career options or what others like you are doing with their degree this guide is a good place to start. It will provide you with industry specific information on careers, schools, associations, labour market information, and more.

Career & Leadership Development Centre

dal.ca/cldc
Studying music offers you the opportunity to take a wide range of courses that reflect the diverse nature of music. It also provides the opportunity to investigate music’s role and meaning in various social and historical contexts. A degree in music has lots to offer as it can encompass so much. Whether your interests lie in performance, teaching, musicology, composition, or new technologies a music degree can get you started in the right direction and lead to a successful and fulfilling career. [Dalhousie Music Department]

A music degree gives you a foundation to pursue a wide range of careers. The career options available to you will likely depend on what specialized skills you have developed both inside and outside of your education and your career interests and goals. When considering where to start keep in mind any significant projects you were involved in, internships, personal strengths, past employment, and other background information that may guide you.

Though you can end up in a variety of jobs with this degree the skills you have developed may make you competitive in the following areas:

- Music Teacher
- Composer
- Artist Manager
- Audio Engineer
- Event Planner
- Instrument Sales
- Conductor
- Pit Orchestra
- Agent
- Blogger
- Concert Promoter
- Record Producer
- Freelance Musician
- Foley Artist
- Grant Writer
- Broadcast Engineer
- Artist and Repertoire Admin
- Social Media Strategist

Though a degree in music can lead to employment within the field of music, like many of the jobs listed above; it also can prepare you for many other exciting careers. Your degree will have taught you number of marketable skills that can be used across multiple jobs. These skills include:

- Communication Skills
- Performance Techniques
- Improvisation and Adaptability
- Confidence
- Physical Stamina
- Working Under Pressure
- Read and Write Music
- Understanding Patterns
- Artistry and Creativity
- Self-Discipline and Motivation
- Working Independently
- Collaboration and Team Work

Many music graduates seek additional education after their degree. By doing so they can better target a specific area of employment that pairs well with their degree. Whether you seek a graduate degree, undergraduate degree or certificate program additional education can opens up a variety of other options. Here are some options available to a music graduate who has completed additional training:

- Music Therapist
- Music Teacher (Public School)
- Professor
- Executive Director
- Consultant
- Music Librarian
- Music/Entertainment Attorney
- Music Software Programmer
- Educational Coordinator

With the plethora of options a music graduate can go it can be hard to know where to start when looking for a career. It would be of value to try out as many different jobs, positions, and experiences to help discover what you are good at and enjoy. This will help point you in the right direction when looking for a career path.
Opportunities in Your Program

Internship - Music students have the opportunity to play alongside seasoned professionals by apprenticing with Symphony Nova Scotia. The experience of rehearsing and performing at a professional level is invaluable exposure for the student planning a career in orchestral music.

Study Abroad - Some of your most life-changing experiences at university can take place in another country. Dalhousie Student Exchange Services (DSES) provides students with information about opportunities to study abroad.

Opportunities at School

Involvement in extra curricular activities will make you a more competitive candidate for positions in your field. It will also allow you to focus on any specialties you are interested in. There are many avenues you can pursue to help you develop these experiences. Consider joining a program like the ones listed below:

- Join a Production
- Dal JAM
- Da Music Festival Collective
- Black and Gold Dance Team
- DALConnects
- Unconscious Collective Vocal Ensemble

The Dalhousie Co-curricular record (CCR) is a great way to track your extra-curricular involvement and display it for employers. Visit dal.ca/ccr to learn more.

Summer Jobs and Volunteer Work

Summer jobs and volunteer work can help you develop experience, transferable skills and discover what you like in a job. Check out these great resources:

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)
A program that provides post-secondary students with experience related to their field of study.

Talent Egg
This website provides postings for internships, co-ops, volunteer opportunities and entry level jobs.

Volunteer Halifax
A posting board where non-profits in Halifax post their volunteer opportunities and positions.

Fusion Halifax
A resource linking local organizations with young people.

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional associations and conferences are a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field. If you would like to pursue a membership student discounts are often available.

If you are an undergraduate keep your eyes open for any undergraduate conferences around Halifax. Below is a sample listing of professional associations and conferences that may be worth examining.

Canadian Independent Music Association
http://www.cimamusic.ca/

MusCan Conference
http://www.muscan.org/en/
Become a professional in music, or combine your music studies with programs in science, theatre or information technology. Here at Dalhousie, you'll get the theory and training you need for the future you want. Whether your interests lie in performance, teaching, musicology, composition, or new technologies, we have the courses to suit you. Dalhousie is ready to foster an artistic partnership with you — one that will lead to a successful and fulfilling career.

Undergraduate Program

The Undergraduate Program at Dalhousie University is offered in three formats;

**Bachelor of Music (BMus)**
- Honours (4 years)

**Bachelor of Science (BSc)**
- Double Major (4 years)
- Combined Honours (4 years)

**Bachelor of Arts (BA)**
- Major (4 years)
- Double Major (4 years)
- Honours/Combined Honours (4 years)

Dalhousie also offers undergraduate programs offered in cooperation with the University of King's College:
- Bachelor of Music with the King's Foundation Year Program (FYP)
- Bachelor of Journalism, Combined Honours (Music History)
- Bachelor of Arts, Contemporary Studies

Music Elective Courses

If you are interested in taking music courses during your studies at Dalhousie, but do not want to major in Music, we have many elective courses that are open to non music majors.
- Listening to Classical Music
- Listening beyond the Classics
- The history of Jazz
- The Rock 'n' Roll Era and Beyond
- Introductory Music Theory

[Dalhousie Music webpage]
There are many other established history programs in Canada and abroad. A great resource for examining post-secondary programs is Career Cruising. Career Cruising can be accessed through your Dalhousie MyCareer profile or by visiting the Career & Leadership Development Centre. Below are some notable music programs:

**University of Toronto**

Location: Toronto, Ontario  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Composition, Ethnomusicology, Music & Health, Music Education, Music Technology, Music Theory, Musicology, Conducting, Early Music, Jazz, Instrumental, Keyboard, Opera, Voice Studies.

**University of British Columbia**

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Performance, Musicianship, Music History, Music Theory, Composition, Music Scholarship, Historical Musicology, Ethnomusicology.

**McGill University**

Location: Montreal, Quebec  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Music Composition, Music Theory, Music History, Jazz, Music Education, Music Technology, Musicology, Sound Recording, Early Music Performance, Gender and Women's Studies, Piano.

**University of Alberta**

Location: Edmonton, Alberta  
BA, MA, PhD  

**Université de Montréal**

Location: Montréal, Quebec  
BA, MA, PhD  
Subject areas: Performance, Musicology, Composition, Conducting, Baroque, Classical, Contemporary, Opera, World Music.
Labour Market Information

Given the broad array of directions you can take a music degree it is difficult to choose a specific sector to analyze the job outlook. So to begin it is important to first identify the sectors that history students work in. Looking at LinkedIn statistics on Dalhousie alumni in appears that most alumni end up in the following fields:

- Arts and Design
- Education
- Media and Communication
- Entrepreneurship
- Operations
- Healthcare Services
- Research
- Sales
- Administrative
- Consulting
- Community and Social Services
- Information Technology

Projections

The following Labour Market Information (LMI) was taken from jobbank.gc.ca. It represents the 2013-2015 projection period. For jobs with a 4 digit number you can use that number on Job Bank to look up additional information on the field. For more LMI on other jobs within your field click on 'Explore Careers'. If you search by occupations or education program then click on outlook for specific LMI.

Good Outlook ★★★
(3 out of 3 stars)

The best career outlooks for individuals with a music degree are in: IT, sales and retail trade. In the IT sector, jobs such as software tester, and systems tester are given a good outlook. Sales positions with a good outlook include retail salesperson, sales clerk, wholesale trade representative, and retail trade supervisors.

Fair Outlook ★★★
(2 out of 3 stars)

Fields for music majors in Nova Scotia with a fair outlook include Audio and Video Recording Technicians (5225). This includes jobs such as sound engineers/technicians, recording engineers, radio technician, recording studio technician, and sound effects editor.

Other fields with a fair outlook in Nova Scotia include: archive technicians(5211), librarians (5111), and college instructors (4131).

Limited Outlook ★★
(1 out of 3 stars)

For fields with a limited outlook within Nova Scotia jobs include: conservators and curators (5112), journalists (5123), managers of libraries, archives, museums and art galleries (0511), and teachers K-12 (4141 & 4142).

Undetermined ★★

Unfortunately because of the small arts industry in Nova Scotia many job outlooks cannot be predicted this includes: conductors, composers, and arrangers (5132), radio producers and record producers (5131), and musicians and singers (5133)
Resources

Online

MyCareer - https://mycareer.dal.ca/
A resource for Dalhousie students to connect with jobs, employers and career related events on campus.

TalentEgg - tallentegg.ca
A great website to find internships, student jobs, and entry level positions. You can also find great advice and career guides. In addition to this, TalentEgg has challenges to help young people build transferable skills.

Tiger Society - https://tigersociety.dsu.ca/
This site lists all Dalhousie Societies and information about them. You can register to join a society through this site.

Career Beacon - careerbeacon.com
Provides job listings and corporate profiles with a strong presence in Nova Scotia and other Maritime Provinces. It can be a great resource for identifying what jobs are in your field and what skills employers are looking for.

Career Cruising - careercruising.com (log on available through MyCareer)
A comprehensive website that provides information to help you make informed choices about your career path.

Employment and Social Development Canada - National Occupational Classification
Contains occupational information and is used to find jobs that exist within Canada's labour market.

Print


All You Need to Know About the Music Business: Canadian Edition (2013). Donald Passman.


The Canadian Student & Grad Job Search Directory. Sentor Media inc.

All books located within the Dalhousie Career & Leadership Development Centre

Other

Career Counselling - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This free service is a confidential and collaborative process in which you work with a career counsellor who assists you in your educational and career decision-making

Career & Leadership Development Centre - Dalhousie - Student Union Building 4th Floor
This resource centre can provide you with all the career tools and resources you need. Drop in for assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing and more.

DALConnects - Leadership Program - dal.ca/dalconnects
This program will connect you with leadership opportunities and workshops.
Music Instruments Specialist

Position: Full Time  -  Salary: $18-$25/hr  -  Hours: 40

This is a two part job, your responsibilities will be split between retail management (75%) and music instruction (25%).

Duties

Sales
• Respond to customer concerns and provide support needed.
• Assist in achievement of store sales goals and objectives by applying product knowledge of musical instruments and accessories.
• Support the product knowledge and sales skill development of the department and other store personnel.
• Maintain up-to-date knowledge of musical instruments, products, and accessories as well as keep team members informed.
• Maintain functionality of department products, displays, and customer information and demonstration equipment by confirming functionality of product.

Instruction
• Provides customers with music lessons when required.
• Give workshops related to music education to customers

Qualifications & Skills
• Suitable candidates must have at least one of the following:
  - a music degree or diploma from a recognized University or College
  - a minimum Grade 8 RCM standing with Grade 2 Rudiments
  - professional equivalency
• At least 1 year hands on knowledge/playing experience of at least one category of Musical Instruments: Guitar, Keyboards, Drums, Pro-Audio equipment, DJ, Drums, Recording technology.
• Excellent communication and organizational skills
• Team player
• Ability to excel in a fast-paced environment
• Proven strong work ethic and commitment
• Ability to recommend solutions in a confident and assertive manner
• Good organizational skills and attention to detail
• Previous experience in retail or sales is an asset
• Positive attitude and steady composure

Make sure you tailor your resume to the position by examining the responsibilities and matching your experiences with them. By examining job ads you can identify skills/experience gaps you should develop throughout school.

Customer service/sales skills you can develop during a part-time job during the school year or a summer job.

List instructional skills (ex. Music lessons, teacher’s assistant, classroom presentations).

You may want to list any training and classes that prove your competency in these areas.

Skills you can develop in a Dalhousie society or varsity team.

Skills you will have developed throughout your education and can further develop at a summer job.

List any major projects you have put together inside or outside school.

Experience developed by playing in a orchestra or band.
For more information, comments, or questions please contact:

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