

## **Musical Performance**

Musicians and singers play instruments or sing for live audiences and in recording studios. They perform in a variety of styles, such as classical, jazz, opera, rap, or rock.

### **Work Environment**

Musicians and singers often perform in settings such as concert halls, arenas, and clubs. They often work in religious organizations and performing arts companies; others are self-employed.

They may spend a lot of time traveling between performances. Some spend time in recording studios. There are many jobs in cities that have a high concentration of entertainment and recording activities

Musicians and singers who give recitals or perform in nightclubs travel frequently and may tour nationally or internationally.

However, many musicians and singers find only part-time or intermittent work and have long periods of unemployment between jobs. The stress of constantly looking for work leads many to accept permanent full-time jobs in other occupations while working part time as a musician or singer.

Rehearsals and recording sessions are commonly held during business hours, but live performances are most often at night and on weekends

### **How to get Qualified**

Educational and training requirements for musicians and singers vary. There are no formal education requirements for musicians and singers interested in performing popular music, but those interested in performing classical and opera typically need at least a bachelor's degree.

Musicians and singers need extensive and prolonged training and practice to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to interpret music at a professional level. They typically begin singing or learning to play an instrument by taking lessons and classes when they are children. In addition, they must practice often to develop their talent and technique.

As with other occupations in which people perform, advancement for musicians and singers means becoming better known, finding work more easily, and earning more money for each performance. Successful musicians and singers often rely on agents or managers to find them jobs, negotiate contracts, and develop their careers.

Other qualifications/skills required:

***Discipline.*** Talent is not enough for most musicians and singers to find employment in this field. They must constantly practice and seek to improve their technique, style, and performances.

***Musical talent.*** Professional musicians or singers must have superior musical abilities.

**People skills.** Musicians and singers need to work well with a variety of people such as agents, music producers, conductors, and other musicians. Good people skills are helpful in building good working relationships.

**Perseverance.** Auditioning for jobs can be a frustrating process because it may take many different auditions to get hired. Musicians and singers need determination and perseverance to continue to audition after receiving many rejections.

**Physical stamina.** Musicians and singers who play in concerts or in nightclubs and those who tour must be able to endure frequent travel and irregular performance schedules.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of musicians and singers is expected to grow 10 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Expected growth will be due to increases in demand for musical performances. However, strong competition is expected for jobs because of the large number of workers who are interested in becoming musicians or singers.

There will be additional demand for musicians to serve as session musicians and backup artists for recordings and to go on tour. Singers will be needed to sing backup and to make recordings for commercials, films, and television.

Despite expected growth, there should be strong competition for jobs because of the large number of workers who are interested in becoming musicians and singers. In particular, there will likely be considerable competition for full-time positions.

Musicians and singers with exceptional musical talent should have the best opportunities although many musicians and singers experience periods of unemployment.