

# What can I do with a Bachelor of Arts in Music?

*A guide compiled by CUE Career Services and the Faculty of Arts*

## General Skill Sets

A Bachelor of Arts degree is versatile. Graduates are employed in almost every industry and every company in North America. When employers are hiring, they are interested in transferable skills attained through university study. Examples include:

- Creativity—“out of the box” thinking
- Problem-solving
- Research skills
- The ability to communicate with anyone, in any forum, using any format
- The ability to start something and complete it (e.g., a university degree)
- Leadership
- Self-confidence
- Punctuality

Often, university graduates who have been employed for approximately two years may transition to a new job. Although factors such as the state of the economy and work performance may affect one’s career journey, there tends to be greater potential for people who have degrees to be promoted or to attain leadership positions. As graduates combine their degree with accumulated work experience, they may transition into positions with increased responsibilities and higher salaries, or leave their current employer to take on new roles elsewhere.

## Skills developed in the study of Music:

Studying music gives you a range of skills sought after by all types of employers, such as:

- Performance skills and confidence
- Technique
- Theoretical background
- Pedagogy
- Composition
- The ability to adapt or improvise (just as in music)
- Self-discipline (the same discipline required for practicing an instrument or rehearsing for a concert)
- Developing and presenting lectures and workshops
- Accomplishing an outcome through teamwork
- A broad understanding of the history and framework of our society
- The ability to research and develop understanding of history and culture of other countries and peoples

As learning is life-long, some careers which are related to a BA degree in Music require additional training. This may involve weekend, evening or part-time courses; further education (some employers provide support by allowing time or offering finances to assist you in your learning); distance studies; or full-time college or university. The Bachelor’s degree is a starting point.

## Careers related to Music degrees

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Music is a starting point for a spectrum of careers, some of which require further education. People with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, including Concordia University of Edmonton alumni, have pursued careers in these and other areas:

### Education

- Children or youth ensemble director
- Music educator (elementary/secondary/post-secondary)
- Private studio teacher
- Artist in residence in a school
- Curriculum designer
- Music camp manager
- Educational director for music in community venues such as museums

### Church Music

- Cantor, church music director
- Organist/keyboardist
- Ensemble director
- Worship/creative arts pastor

### Music Writing and Publishing

- Composer, arranger, editor, publisher, copyist
- Promotion, sales, distribution coordinator
- Newspaper or magazine editor, critic, columnist
- Copyright/licensing administrator

### Music Recording and Technology

- Producer
- Software and hardware developer
- Audio engineer, mixer
- Sound systems coordinator
- Sound and video editor
- Programmer (sequencing)
- Acoustician
- Radio/TV program director
- Sound designer for theatre or film (synthesis specialist)

### Music Performance

- Solo or ensemble performer
- Clinician
- Accompanist
- Military musician
- Artist in residence

### Music Administration and Management

- Agent
- Retail and wholesale sales
- Arts publicity, promotions and marketing
- Professional arts organization management
- Tour manager
- Cultural arts events planner
- Arts programmer or media director for community venues

### Musical Instrument Specialist

- Piano tuner
- Instrument repair technician or manufacturer
- Promotion, sales, distribution editor

**Music Librarian**  
**Music Therapist**



## Typical Employers

- Common employers of performing arts graduates include:
- Local government
- Arts organizations
- Health and wellness providers
- Not-for-profit organizations
- School boards (and other Educational institutions/organizations)
- Leisure companies

## Further Study

You may want to specialize further, learn additional performance skills or do academic research into an aspect of your subject that interests you. You might choose to pursue a vocational course, such as a diploma in arts administration or a teaching certificate, which will open up alternative areas of employment.

## REFERENCES

[www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo)

[www.jobfutures.ca](http://www.jobfutures.ca)

[www.uncw.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm](http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm)

[www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/majors.html](http://www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/majors.html)

For more information or assistance with career and educational planning, please contact CUE Career Services at +1 780 378 8461 or email us at [careerservices@concordia.ab.ca](mailto:careerservices@concordia.ab.ca).

