

## TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

# Careers for Pianists: Part Two

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*Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of three lists of careers in music for the pianist. The checklist below suggests academic routes to prepare for certain careers, but terminal degrees are not necessary in all cases.*

### TEACHING CAREERS

#### INDEPENDENT MUSIC TEACHER (IMT)

##### Requires

- excellent skills as a pianist and musician
- piano pedagogy courses
- knowledge of teaching literature
- computer skills
- good business skills (such as record-keeping)
- ability to set studio policy
- ability to devise attractive studio documents (such as studio policy sheets)
- long-range plan for accumulation of inventory
- understanding of laws that affect small businesses, local zoning, and tax
- membership in professional organizations

##### Degrees

BM, MM, DMA in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy, Music Education  
[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) Music Teachers National Association  
[www.pianoguild.com/](http://www.pianoguild.com/) American College of Musicians/National Guild of Piano Teachers  
[www.nfmc-music.org/](http://www.nfmc-music.org/) National Federation of Music Clubs

#### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBER

##### Requires

- excellent skills as a pianist and musician
- special skill in additional area, such as collaborative pianist, chamber music coach, group piano instructor, piano pedagogy
- ability to be flexible and cooperative in a college-university structure
- terminal degree (most institutions)
- membership in professional organizations
- skills and ambition to perform, publish, or contribute to area of expertise

##### Degrees

BM, MM, DMA in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy, Collaborative Arts  
[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) Music Teachers National Association

#### COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS INSTRUCTOR

##### Requires

- excellent skills as a pianist and musician
- knowledge of teaching literature
- membership in professional organizations

##### Degrees

BM, MM, DMA, in Piano Performance Piano Pedagogy, Collaborative Arts  
[www.nationalguild.org](http://www.nationalguild.org) National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts lists certified Community Schools by state

#### MUSIC STORE INSTRUCTOR

##### Requires

All as for Independent Music Teacher or Community School of the Arts Instructor depending on the situation

##### Degrees

BM in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy BM/BS/BA in Music Education

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER

##### Requires

- private lessons on a primary and secondary instrument to ensure musicality at the highest possible level
- knowledge of music theory and history
- conducting classes
- elementary education classes
- methods classes

##### Degrees

BM, MM, DMA in Music Education Performance, Conducting, Choral Studies BS/BA in Music Education  
[www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org) Music Educators National Conference

#### JUNIOR HIGH, HIGH SCHOOL BAND/ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

##### Requires

- private lessons on a primary and secondary instrument to ensure musicality at the highest possible level
- knowledge of music theory and history
- conducting classes
- secondary education classes
- methods classes in woodwinds, strings, brass, and percussion instruments
- experience in as many ensembles as possible in the college years (band, jazz band,

pep band, marching band, orchestra)

- courses in areas such as jazz improvisation, scoring and arranging

##### Degrees

BM, MM, DMA in Music Education (arranging), Jazz Performance (Instrumental), Jazz Studies, Music Education (Jazz Emphasis)  
 BS/BA in Music Education  
[www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org) Music Educators National Conference  
[www.asbda.com/](http://www.asbda.com/) American School Band Directors Association

#### JUNIOR HIGH, HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR DIRECTOR

##### Requires

- vocal methods
- diction classes
- language skills in German, French, and Italian
- conducting classes
- knowledge of music theory and history
- advanced piano skills
- private vocal lessons to ensure singing at highest possible level
- experience in as many ensembles and performance mediums as possible in the college years (choir, swing choir, vocal jazz groups, musicals, operas)

##### Degrees

BM, MM, DMA in Music Education BS/BA in Music Education  
[www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org) Music Educators National Conference

#### K-12 MUSIC INSTRUCTOR

In many small towns in the United States, a single Music teacher must cover all the music classes and ensembles

##### Requires

All as for Elementary, Junior High, and High School general music, vocal, and instrumental instruction

- strong organizational skills

##### Degrees

BM in Music Education (Composite Vocal and Instrumental)  
 BS in Music Education  
[www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org) Music Educators National Conference