

## TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

# Careers for Pianists: Part Three

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*Editor's Note: This is the final list of careers in music for the pianist. The checklist below suggests academic routes to prepare for certain careers, but degrees may not be necessary in all cases.*

### BUSINESS AND SERVICE CAREERS

#### COMPOSER

##### Requires

- individuality and artistic vision
- composition study
- extensive study in music theory, counterpoint, form and analysis, music history
- understanding the fundamentals of all instruments
- highest possible level of musical skill on an instrument

For composer at a university

- ability to teach college level courses

For arranger or songwriter

- ability to supplement income
- understanding of copyright laws
- understanding of the music business

**Degrees:** BM, MM, DM in Composition, Music Theory, Performance

<http://music-usa.org/nacusa/index.html>

[www.societyofcomposers.org](http://www.societyofcomposers.org)

[www.composerforum.org](http://www.composerforum.org)

[www.under.org/cpcc](http://www.under.org/cpcc)

[www.songwriters.org/nas2.htm](http://www.songwriters.org/nas2.htm)

#### CONDUCTOR

##### Requires

- conducting courses
- broad knowledge of choral/instrumental repertoire and capabilities
- understanding of musical periods and styles of performance
- understanding of musical form and analysis
- usually needs supplemental income

**Degrees:** BM, MM, DMA in Choral or Instrumental Conducting

<http://acdaonline.org/>

<http://www.symphony.org/career/index.shtml>

#### ARTS ADMINISTRATOR

Arts administrators work for performing organizations, festivals, community and state arts agencies, and museums.

##### Requires

- experience in the arts
- organizational skills
- ability to multitask
- skill in public relations and promotion
- good speaking and writing skills
- knowledge of budgets and fund-raising
- grant-writing skills

- governance and board development skills

For Community School of the Arts

- program development skills
- faculty hiring and evaluating skills
- long-range planning skills
- strategic planning skills
- understanding of the arts and arts curriculum
- governance and board development skills

**Degrees:** BM, BA, MM in Music, Arts

Management

[www.artsnet.org/aaac/](http://www.artsnet.org/aaac/)

[www.nationalguild.org](http://www.nationalguild.org)—click on Programs, click on AMICI

#### MUSIC THERAPIST

##### Requires

- music courses (history, theory, performance, conducting, instrumental technique, ensembles)
- music therapy courses (principles, psychology of music, practica experience)
- biological and behavioral sciences (anatomy, abnormal psychology, sociology, exceptional children)
- completion of a six-month clinical internship under the direction of a registered music therapist in an AMTA approved music therapy program
- Certification after successful completion of the AMTA national certification exam

**Degrees:** BM; MMT in Music Therapy

[www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org)

<http://members.aol.com/kathysl>

#### MUSIC PUBLISHING

##### Requires

- strong background in music
- ability to network
- library and research skills
- prior experience in the music field
- experience with computers and technology

**Degrees:** BM, MM with a business emphasis; degree with a music/business minor

[www.mpa.org/](http://www.mpa.org/)

[www.ascap.com/index.html](http://www.ascap.com/index.html)

[www.nmpa.org/](http://www.nmpa.org/)

#### MUSIC EDITOR

##### Requires

- strong background in music
- attention to detail and understanding of the material being edited
- excellent writing skills
- ability to network
- interpersonal skills

**Degrees:** BM, MM, DMA

#### MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Music technology jobs include the teaching of notation, sequencing, and electronic composition; working in the recording industry; notating or engraving music; working as a sound technician; and working in music publishing.

##### Requires

- classes in music history, theory, performance
- knowledge of notation software, sequencing, MIDI
- classes in sound recording, multimedia authoring, sound synthesis, digital signal processing, and audio editing
- classes in music software applications

**Degrees:** BM, MM, DMA in Music Technology

[www.music.org/atmi/](http://www.music.org/atmi/)

<http://php.auburn.edu/outreach/dl/ctmu/NSMIT/2003/>

<http://musictech.com>

[www.ti-me.org](http://www.ti-me.org)

#### PIANO TECHNICIAN

##### Requires

- strong piano skills
- completion of a set of three examinations to qualify as a Registered Piano Technician (RPT): written, technical, and tuning

**Degrees:** BM in piano, Certification as a RPT

[www.ptg.org/ptg.htm](http://www.ptg.org/ptg.htm)

#### INSTRUMENT MAKER

##### Requires

- study and graduation from a recognized instrument-making school
- apprentice with a master

**Degrees:** BM

[http://musicmoz.org/Business/Instruments/Builders\\_and\\_Manufacturers/Keyboard/Harpsichord/](http://musicmoz.org/Business/Instruments/Builders_and_Manufacturers/Keyboard/Harpsichord/)

[www.guitarplans.co.uk/ViolinMakingCourses.htm](http://www.guitarplans.co.uk/ViolinMakingCourses.htm)

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Business\\_and\\_Economy/Shopping\\_and\\_Services/Music/Instruments\\_and\\_Equipment/Keyboard\\_Instruments/Piano/Makers/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Shopping_and_Services/Music/Instruments_and_Equipment/Keyboard_Instruments/Piano/Makers/)

#### SALES

##### Requires

- clear understanding of the music profession
- familiarity with all inventory (publications, music, instruments, accessories)
- strong business skills
- ability to play an instrument is an asset

**Degrees:** BA, BM, MM

BS, MS in Business

[www.printmusic.org](http://www.printmusic.org)