

Course Content - Careers in Music Part 1

Composer and Fun Fact

- A composer is a person who writes music for a living.
- Mateo Messina is a composer who writes music for movies, television shows, video games, and concerts.
- Mateo Messina describes writing music as “telling a story”.
- Music contributes to movie and television show storytelling by helping set the emotional tone.
- He says deadlines are the most challenging part of his job. Deadlines, like homework, are when a project is due.
- *Incredibox*, *GarageBand*, and *FL Studio* are examples of online composing apps that allow anyone to make music.

Music Store Owner

- Geoff Metts owns Five Star Guitars, a music store.
- He started working in the store and eventually bought it from the previous owner.
- Music stores usually sell instruments but often also repair instruments and offer music lessons.
- Music store owners need to know about instruments and music but also must know how to work with customers, how to run a business, and how to manage employees.

Record Company Owner

- Portia Sabin owns the record label Kill Rock Stars. She got into the music business after playing in a band. She started managing bands then took over the label.
- The owner of a record label works to find bands that they want to represent. After signing a contract to work with those bands, they then help them make albums and plan tours to try to help them sell their music.
- Portia Sabin says the most challenging part of her job is trying to keep up with the changing music technology.
- A Demonstration Tape, or “demo”, is a sample of a band’s music.
- Ms. Sabin recommends that if you want to get into the music business, one way is to get a job or an internship at a record company and gain experience.

Radio DJ

- Stacey Lynn is a radio DJ. She works for the radio to entertain the listeners and play music.
- She says the hardest part of being a DJ is that there is a lot of rejection, people telling you that they don’t like your work. It is very important to believe in yourself.
- “Show Prep” is the research that every DJ does to get ready to go on air.
- The DJ runs the radio board that contains all the things the DJ might want to play, from music to announcements to the microphone on/off.

Music in Life Lesson:

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is “Down by the Water” by The Decemberists. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think, and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

Club DJ

- A Club DJ chooses and plays music at nightclubs, discos, parties, and stadiums.
- One of the basics of club music played by a DJ is the beat.
- A “Mash-up” is when a DJ mixes two or more songs together to make a new song.

Stage Manager

- A stage manager makes sure that everything in a music performance goes well. They are a problem solver!
- The stage manager manages the lights, the sound, the venue (where it is happening—the stage) and the band.
- The challenge of being a stage manager is that every show is different and has unique predicaments.

Conductor

- A conductor keeps all the musicians playing together in an orchestra.
- Norman Huynh says that the most challenging part of being a conductor is telling the story of the music—translating the music from the page to the concert hall.
- The first step to becoming a conductor is to begin learning an instrument, any instrument, and you are at the perfect age to start!