



RESOURCES FOR STUDENT MUSICIANS - EDUCATOR GUIDE

Getting a head start in music

'Getting a head start' incorporates four challenges designed to get students thinking about their futures. Each challenge can form the basis of group discussions, research topics, or reflections. The challenges also work really well as short, targeted discussions, or as three-minute papers.

CHALLENGE 1

Engage in as many musical and non-musical activities during higher education as possible.

Why?	This makes you better equipped for portfolio careers, and enables you to discover and try new possibilities.
How?	Pursue diverse activities outside, or in parallel with, your specialism.
When?	Right now! Find out what is available inside and outside of your university, community, and professional networks. Look online and offline. Find out whether your institution offers course credit or awards for community/service activities.

CHALLENGE 2

Challenge your aims and plans.

Why?	The music career stories listed on our student website illustrate musicians' career decision making. You will see that the musicians' careers are sometimes vastly different from what they had imagined.
How?	Give yourself space to think through and talk over what is important to you. Enlist the support of your instrumental/vocal teacher, lecturers and peers.
When?	How? When? Right now! Ask yourself what you want from your career every time you make a decision or undertake one of these challenges.

CHALLENGE 3

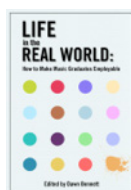
Take ownership of your learning.

Why?	You need not scrap your dreams if you feel that they are becoming unachievable. You do, though, need to think about your goals and how you plan to achieve them.
How?	Identify what you need to do to achieve your aims. Seek out opportunities to do this, or, if existing opportunities are not there, create your own.
When?	Right now! If you know what you want from your learning, you are much more likely to achieve it. This doesn't mean deciding on your career, it means thinking about the things you like to do and how these can form part of your future.

CHALLENGE 4

Work out what 'career' success means to you. This challenge includes mention of subjective and objective careers. You can find more information about this in '[Conceptualising Careers](#)'.

Why?	Success can often feel as though it is defined by everyone else. Knowing what it is for you will help you make key career decisions.
How?	Consider the objective and subjective elements of your career (see ' Conceptualising Careers ') and how these match up for you: what is most important to you in your career?
When?	Right now! Remember that however you define success, you will need to be diverse, flexible, and open-minded in order to respond to your needs as they change over time.



This resource comes from Life in the Real World: How to Make Music Graduates Employable, published by Common Ground in 2012. Purchasers of the book are permitted to download all of the tools and resources.

If you have yet to purchase the book, please order it from [here](#).

This resource was contributed by Rosie Perkins.

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