



RESOURCES FOR STUDENT MUSICIANS - EDUCATOR GUIDE

How to make it as a music graduate IV: Knowing yourself

“We must have the hide of an elephant and the heart of a butterfly.” Metropolitan Opera baritone Thomas Hampson

Artistry is achieved by acquiring and developing the skills and knowledge to develop our potential. These elements shape the fundamental goals of higher education music programs, but as educators and musicians we know they are not sufficient by themselves. Individual temperament and personality traits, for example, greatly influence career development. Extending awareness in these areas can be very helpful as students launch their careers.

According to Thomas & Chess (1977, p. 4),

Temperament may best be described as a general term describing the ‘how’ of behavior. It differs from ability, which is concerned with the ‘what’ and the ‘how well’ of behaving, and from motivation, which accounts for why a person does what s/he is doing.

This classic definition of temperament separates it from ability (talent) and motivation (the drive individuals express in pursuing musical and career goals). While certainly influenced by experiences in life, temperament is generally described as innate: a predisposition to act and behave with a particular level of energy and emotional response. Awareness and acceptance of personal temperaments can help identify and motivate work toward career paths that provide a good fit.

The activities in this student resource can help students learn more about their temperament in relation to their career. You might want to direct students to other self-awareness resources such as [Conceptualising music careers](#); [Design your future](#); and [How to form an effective group or team](#).

Student resource

The student resource for this guide can be found on the [Developing EmployABILITY student website](#) and in the [music toolkit on our educator website](#). Allow students 10-15 minutes to complete the resource.



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 Janis Weller.

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