

RESOURCES FOR STUDENT MUSICIANS

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

CHALLENGE

Traditionally, attaining superior musical abilities and knowledge forms the primary goals in preparing for a career in music. This is the educational centrepiece of music schools and the central motivation for many students. Music schools, however, are discovering that entrepreneurial skills and attitudes not only provide useful means for launching the fledgling careers of their highly accomplished graduates, but may also be absolutely vital for doing so in the rapidly changing artistic marketplace. And the pace of change is staggering! For today's college seniors and recent graduates, the music industry (and after all, it is a huge and lucrative business) is already a vastly different place than when they started college. The explosion of technological innovations alone has opened exciting new opportunities for connecting music with the world along with whole new skill sets for musicians to master. Are you ready to take advantage of them?

More music schools, particularly conservatories, are realising that with large numbers of highly trained and exceptionally talented young artists graduating every year from fine schools, it is vital to help alumni enter the field with a competitive advantage, and that non-musical career skills are not simply intuitive, but can be learned. Over the past decade or so, more music colleges have launched entrepreneurial programs, career centres and seminars focused on the musician's practice as an entrepreneurial small business. Be sure to take advantage of career development opportunities on campus.

It may take some extra effort to attend special events or workshops or to squeeze in another elective course, but the pay-off for one's career can be substantial. If your school doesn't run anything, look for activities in the business school or in the music sector.

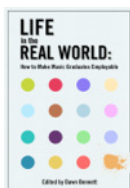
ACTIVITY

For a simple temperament-related activity, ask someone who knew you as a very small child (age 2 or even younger) to choose three words that described you at that stage. Examples could be sensitive, active, social, stubborn, moody, and the like. Do you see yourself in those words today? Our temperament tends to be quite stable through life, even as we grow and mature and develop. Think of your temperament as a career tool and think about how yours can give you the edge in creating and sustaining your work.

MAKE IT COUNT!

Your temperament can make the difference between being hired and being fired; even orchestras commonly now interview candidates as well as audition them. Employers everywhere emphasise that one of the most important selection criteria is whether the person applying for work will be a good fit with the existing team; this applies as much to a pizza delivery job as it does to a professional quartet vacancy!

Make this activity count by reflecting on your temperament and completing the professionalism (hyperlink) resource. Add positive traits to your CV or portfolio and identify one or two traits for improvement. Give yourself a timeline for these actions. If you're unsure about where to start, seek some guidance via the careers centre or the counselling centre at your university - you won't be the first person to ask for help!



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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