



STUDENT ACTIVATION



Singer-Songwriter

WHAT DOES A SINGER-SONGWRITER DO?

Working as a singer and songwriter involves creating, performing, sharing, and often producing one's music. Singers and songwriters write music and lyrics for songs, crafting songs that tell the story of life experiences, create personal narratives, provide social commentary, or fictional storytelling. They perform live in front of audiences at clubs, venues, and music halls and record their music in recording studios to create song tracks and albums. Singer-songwriters collaborate with producers and session musicians when recording their music and use social media, websites, and other platforms to share and promote their music. They must network with music industry professionals such as managers, other artists and musicians, agents, and producers to build their brand and negotiate recording contracts.

Singer-songwriters must be able to promote themselves and their music to the public through various platforms, they also must spend time networking to

meet people in the music industry to create new opportunities for themselves and their music career. They must work with other musicians, music producers, and industry executives to consistently write, record, and release new music. A successful singer-songwriter is a well-rounded artist who combines musical talent with creative and emotional depth, professional skills, and a strong work ethic to create and share impactful music.

IS SINGER-SONGWRITER A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Me	Singer-Songwriter
I am creative. I have the ability to generate original ideas, concepts, or solutions, often through imaginative thinking and writing.	Singer-songwriters must be good at expressing their feelings through writing lyrics and music
I am a hard worker. I spend much of my time writing and playing instruments, as well as paying attention to musical nuances, dynamics, and expression to deliver polished performances to audiences. I am always looking for ways to share my music through social media and to those in my community.	Singer-songwriters are dedicated to honing their craft and they practice, write, and perform their music regularly. They have resilience in sharing and promoting their music and networking with those who can help them further their music career.

<p>I have musical talent. I have vocal range and control and am able to express myself through song. I have technical skill in playing instruments or proficiency in working with digital or electronic music platforms.</p>	<p>Singer-songwriters naturally have or develop musical abilities that enable them to perform, compose, or appreciate music at a high level.</p>
<p>I am interested in school subjects like choir, band, music theory, business, marketing, theater, and creative writing.</p>	<p>Singer-songwriters often start singing and playing instruments at an early age. They take music lessons and perform in school and church choirs, school, community, and independent bands, and perform in school and community theater.</p>

<p>How does this career help me?</p>	<p>How does this career help the world?</p>
<p>Becoming a singer-songwriter can allow you to express emotions, experiences, and personal, social, and political beliefs to others through artistic expression by writing lyrics and music, singing, playing instruments, and recording music.</p>	<p>Singer-songwriters contribute to the world in many ways, including using their music and influence to inspire, entertain, and provoke thought. They can raise awareness about social and political issues, provide emotional connection, express creativity, and entertain their audiences.</p>

<p>What are some similar careers?</p>
<p>Music producers guide the creative and technical aspects of recording music. They shape the artistic vision, manage the recording process, oversee sound engineering, and collaborate with artists to achieve the best performances.</p> <p>Session musicians are hired to play or sing for a recording session or live performance. They are not usually permanent members of a band or other musical group, but can work with a variety of ensembles, including orchestras, big bands, and pop bands.</p> <p>Sound engineers use technology and musical instruments to capture, mix, and reproduce sound for live performances and recordings. They are responsible for the technical aspects of sound, such as balancing and adjusting sound sources, mixing, and enhancing sound quality.</p> <p>Learn more about these careers by viewing the Anatomy of Hit Song Working in Harmony video topic series.</p>

HERE ARE WAYS TO PRACTICE THE SKILLS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL SINGER-SONGWRITER:

- Musicians and singers typically do not need formal postsecondary education to enter the occupation. However, those pursuing careers in some genres, such as classical or opera, may choose to earn a bachelor's or higher degree.
- Work on mastery of singing techniques such as breath control, pitch accuracy, dynamics, and tone; improve instrument proficiency by playing one or more instruments to accompany singing and practice composing music.
- Build performance skills such as confidence, charisma, and communication skills on stage to engage audiences during live performances, conveying authenticity and emotional depth through vocal and instrumental performances, and hone the ability to spontaneously create music, melodies, or lyrics during live performances.
- Practice organizational skills to manage practice schedules and business tasks effectively, build relationships with industry professionals, collaborators, and listeners, and learn about marketing strategies, social media platforms, and branding techniques to promote music and engage with audiences.

RELATED VOCAB

- **Music genre**
A categorization of music based on shared characteristics, including stylistic elements, cultural context, and historical origins.
- **Mastering**
The final step in the audio post-production process, where a recorded piece of music is polished and finalized for distribution in the studio and the final audio is prepared for various playback formats and media.
- **Songwriting**
The process of creating music and lyrics to form a song that involves various elements, including composing melodies, harmonies, and chord progressions, as well as writing lyrics that convey a story, emotion, or message.