



CAREER PROFILE



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.

WHAT IS A SINGER-SONGWRITER?

A singer-songwriter is an artist who both writes and performs their own music. This role encompasses a blend of creative, musical, and lyrical skills. They arrange music, play instruments, provide vocals, and write lyrics to original songs. They show their style, express their personal beliefs, and tell their stories through their songs and performances. They record their music and distribute it by producing albums, releasing them on social media platforms, and performing at live music venues for audiences. They work with other artists, musicians, producers, and music agents in their career and often have a large part in producing and creating revenue from their music.

IS BEING A SINGER-SONGWRITER A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Singer-songwriters are:

- Creative
- Motivated
- Artistic
- Collaborative
- Disciplined
- Innovative
- Entertainers

HOW DO I BECOME A SINGER-SONGWRITER?

Some of the training, skills, and education that singer-songwriters may have include:

- earning a bachelor's or higher degree in a field such as music theory or music performance if pursuing a career in some genres, such as classical or opera
- training or regular practice to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to perform music professionally
- sing or learn to play an instrument by taking lessons or school classes such as band, choir, and music performance
- participate in music camps, festivals, or fellowships
- take marketing or music business classes to learn more about the music industry
- spend time networking through industry events or social media to make connections and form relationships with others in the music business

CAREER OUTLOOK

Jobs for singer-songwriters are projected to show little change from 2022 to 2032.

- **Projected job growth:**
22,600 openings for musicians and singers are projected each year, on average, over the decade
- **Average salary range:**
\$40.00 per hour

RELATED VOCAB

Music genre

A categorization of music based on shared characteristics, including stylistic elements, cultural context, and historical origins.

Music 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.

AM I...

- a good storyteller?
- dedicated to the craft of music?
- a good collaborator?
- knowledgeable in the areas of music business, marketing, and promotion?

DO I...

- have talent and skills in the areas of singing, writing lyrics, playing instruments, or working with digital music?
- enjoy performing in front of an audience?
- find satisfaction in expressing my feelings, opinions, and experiences through writing lyrics and playing music?
- like working with people to reach a common artistic goal?