

Musicians and Singers

SOC: 27-2042 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$87,360

Median Salary

169,800

Employment

+1.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: No formal educational credential

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.0/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Dedication, Discipline, Interpersonal skills, Musical talent, Physical stamina, Promotional skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Musicians and Singers are performing artists who create and perform **music through vocal or instrumental expression**. They interpret compositions, improvise performances, and collaborate with other artists to entertain, inspire, and connect with audiences across live venues, recordings, and digital platforms. Their work blends artistic creativity, technical mastery, and disciplined practice. This career is well suited for individuals who are musically expressive, dedicated to continual improvement, and comfortable performing in front of audiences or recording microphones.

What Do Musicians and Singers Do?

Musicians and singers perform music in a variety of styles and settings.

Common responsibilities include:

- Practicing instruments or vocal techniques regularly
- Performing music live or in recording sessions
- Reading and interpreting musical scores or chord charts
- Rehearsing with bands, orchestras, or ensembles
- Collaborating with composers, producers, and conductors
- Improvising or adapting performances as needed
- Promoting performances, recordings, or personal brands

Types of Musical Performance

Musicians and singers may specialize by role or genre:

- Instrumental Musicians: Perform using instruments such as guitar, piano, violin, or drums.
- Vocalists and Singers: Perform music using solo or ensemble vocals.
- Session Musicians: Record music for artists, films, or commercials.
- Live Performers: Play concerts, shows, or events.
- Classical Musicians: Perform orchestral, chamber, or operatic music.
- Contemporary and Popular Artists: Perform genres such as pop, rock, jazz, hip-hop, or country.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Musicians and singers combine technical proficiency with artistic expression.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Training Pathway

Paths into music are talent- and skill-based, with varied educational routes:

- Formal Music Education (common): Conservatories, music schools, or university programs
- Private Lessons and Coaching: Skill refinement and technique development
- Practice and Performance Experience: Gigs, recitals, and recordings
- Auditions and Networking: Entry into ensembles or professional opportunities
- Ongoing Training: Continuous improvement and style exploration

Where Do Musicians and Singers Work?

They perform across many artistic and commercial environments:

- Concert Halls and Live Music Venues
- Recording Studios
- Theaters, Operas, and Performing Arts Centers

- Film, Television, and Digital Media Productions
- Religious Institutions and Community Events
- Freelance and Independent Music Settings

Work schedules are often irregular and performance-based.

How Much Do Musicians and Singers Earn?

Earnings vary widely depending on genre, reputation, and performance opportunities:

- Entry-Level or Local Performers: Often earn per-gig or hourly pay
- Established Professionals: Typically earn higher income from performances, recordings, or teaching
- Freelance Artists: Income may fluctuate based on bookings and projects

Many musicians supplement income through teaching or related creative work.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career is highly competitive and requires sustained dedication. Musicians and singers must invest significant time in practice, manage performance pressure, and navigate inconsistent income. The challenge lies in balancing artistic growth with career sustainability.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Musician or Singer?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Love making and performing music
- Are disciplined and self-motivated
- Enjoy creative expression and collaboration
- Can handle competition and uncertainty
- Are committed to lifelong musical growth

How to Prepare Early

- Begin music lessons and practice regularly
- Study music theory and ear training
- Perform in school, community, or local ensembles
- Explore multiple genres and styles
- Build performance experience and confidence

Musicians and singers bring sound to life—transforming notes, rhythm, and emotion into shared experiences that entertain, inspire, and connect people across cultures and generations through the universal language of music.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/entertainment-and-sports/musicians-and-singers.htm>