

Music: Vocation vs. Avocation

Introduction

This section of the course delves into whether or not the study of music should be limited as a trade, as well as several challenges musicians are confronted in regard to pursuing the art form as a vocation. Access to the study of music has varied in the last centuries. This module presents types of decisions made by those institutions that admit students to music study. The following questions are raised. What kinds of skills should those studying music as a trade possess? How does the United States government present labor statistics in an oversaturated field? What challenges do those studying music encounter?

Objectives

Demonstrate knowledge of the change of access to music education in the last three centuries.

Provide arguments for and against limiting access to professional study in music.

Provide arguments that support utilitarian and aesthetic benefits of music study.

Selected Terms

American Federation of Musicians
Conservatory/School of Music
Crossover Artist
Great Recession
Guild
Juilliard School
Music Director
National Association of Schools of Music
Orchestral Audition
Saxony
United States Labor Department

Selected Musical Artists Presented

Andrea Bocelli
Charlotte Church
Gaetano Donizetti
Hilary Hahn
Alanis Morissette
Three Tenors
Giuseppe Verdi