

Careers in pop music

Information resources

General reference resources

- The Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), the professional body for musicians in the UK has a good Careers section on their website www.ism.org
- A good publication to see would be Music Week. The Music Week Directory www.musicweek.com/mp_index.asp is worth a look as well; it is a "Who's Who" of companies active in the UK music and media industry – record companies, music publishers, managers, recording studios, venues.
- *How to make it in the Music Business* by Sian Pattenden gives an overview of what it is like to work the music industry (may be written in a style graduates will find simplistic) http://www.amazon.co.uk/Make-Music-Business-Sian-Pattenden/dp/0753512432/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&cs=books&qid=1199780401&sr=8-1
- Working in the music industry by Anna Britten publisher www.howtobooks.co.uk
- The UK Music Jobs website is also good: <http://uk.music-jobs.com/index.php> You can sign up for alerts, put a profile online for companies to view, etc.
- www.showcase-music.com is a music directory with contacts worldwide from rehearsal studios and equipment to producers and record labels.
- www.musicleader.net Advertises job opportunities for those wanting to use their music skills working with children or youth, leading or co-ordinating a music project
- www.studentnet.manchester.ac.uk/careers and look under 'useful downloads' then 'career sectors', select 'the music industry'.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onemusic/industry/> It does not offer advice for artists but for other professions with popular music. You can watch videos of each person talking about their job and the industry. There are some other areas of the site that offer advice to unsigned artists, if they are looking at that area.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onemusic/industry/games.shtml> two online "games" giving you a chance to try out roles and get ideas on how to crack the industry.
- <http://www.recordproduction.com/JOBS.HTM> covers jobs in the recording industry and education for a career in music.
- Another useful hard copy resource is the unsigned guide for artists which has information on everything from equipment to publishers, venues, promoters, studios, shops, etc. <http://www.theunsignedguide.com>
- If they are looking at becoming a record producer, then these may be useful: The Music Producers Guild <http://www.mpg.org.uk/> provides a forum for debate and networking, as well as the latest news, and announcements of up-coming regular MPG special events as well as a "knowledge bank" and members' directory. See also <http://www.recordproduction.com/JOBS.HTM>

Other useful organisations, especially for freelance work are:

- The musicians union - <http://www.musiciansunion.org.uk>
- The PRS/MCPS Alliance - <http://www.mcps-prs-alliance.co.uk>
- <http://www.pro-music.org> "a coalition of people and organisations working across the music sector. The international alliances of musicians, performers, managers, artists, major and independent record

companies and retailers across the music industry have joined forces to promote the myriad of different ways in which people can enjoy music safely and legitimately online."

- <http://www.starnow.co.uk/Musicians-Wanted> a jobs board and talent directory.
- <http://www.youthmusic.org.uk/> works alongside the formal and community-based sectors to support music-making and training.
- <http://www.artshub.co.uk/uk/default.asp> includes jobs, news, events, etc. for music and other arts.
- <http://www.musicbank.co.uk/> a business development network, owned and operated by the University of Westminster, to promote innovation across the UK music business.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/keyskills/gallery/index.shtml> information on how your key skills can help you get a media related job.
- <http://www.creativepeople.org.uk/> Network for people who work in the creative industries, providing information on resources and events: workshops, conferences, courses, mentoring schemes, critical appraisal services and online toolkits to help with music careers.
- The Music Industry Association <http://www.mia.org.uk/whatis/> is a trade association representing musical instrument retailers and related businesses
- Swansea Institute runs a course in Music Technology, and you can find information at <http://www.sihe.ac.uk/sihe/digitalmedia/bscmt.htm>
- <http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/musicprod.htm> This page from the Careers Service at the University of Kent gives a checklist of skills developed on music and music technology courses, and some links to music and music technology websites.
- From the Prospects "sector briefing" on Creative Arts www.prospects.ac.uk
- The Brit School website <http://www.brit.croydon.sch.uk/Careers/musiclinks.html> has some useful links to other music career related websites.
- Music management agencies can be found using search engines and their directories such as Yahoo http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Business_to_Business/Entertainment_and_Media_Production/Music/Management/
- The Vocalist <http://www.vocalist.org.uk/> includes job listings and studio listings amongst other resources for singers.
- Connexions (the non-HE careers service) national website has an information sheet about working as a pop musician <http://www.connexionsdirect.com/jobs4u/jobfamily/performingarts/popularmusician.cfm?id=1468>
- The BPI (formerly known as British Phonographic Industry) is the body that represents the British recorded music business It is founder of the Brit awards and the trade association of UK record companies. The BPI website <http://www.bpi.co.uk/> contains some useful tips and resources.
- The Guardian Media Guide edited by Steve Peak (2002) is old but may still contain useful background and advice. <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Guardian-Media-Guide-Steve-Peak/dp/1903809185>

Kate Murray, Careers Adviser, King's College London – 01/12/08

Information taken from the Brit School website and with thanks to the Royal College of Music. Jan 2008