

Job of The Week

Musician

Key Skills

- persistence and determination
- ambition and a desire to succeed
- knowledge of the fine arts
- be thorough and pay attention to detail
- thinking and reasoning skills
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device
- active listening skills
- concentration skills

Salary

Variable

Working hours

34-36 per week
evenings / weekends / bank holiday
away from home

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Musician

College

You could take a college course to get professional training and the opportunity to perform. Subjects available include:

- Level 2 Award for Music Practitioners
- Level 2 Diploma in Music for Practical Performance
- Level 3 Diploma in Music Technology
- Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music Performance and Production

You may need to pass an audition to get on to some courses.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3, or equivalent, for a level 2 course or 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, for a level 3 course.

Volunteering

Enter talent competitions, music festivals and events to get yourself known.

For example, the BBC runs an annual competition for 12 to 18 year olds across the UK who create their own original music.

University

Whatever your musical genre, you'll need a high level of musical skill and talent. Though you do not need a degree for all forms of music, in some fields it is expected, for example classical music.

You could study for a degree or postgraduate award in:

- classical music
- music composition
- music performance
- popular music
- popular and commercial music

You could do this at a university or a conservatoire.

You'll usually specialise in one main instrument and study a second instrument.

Some music degrees focus more on music theory than performance, so research the courses carefully to make sure they're right for you.

At audition you'll usually be asked to perform several pieces of music of different styles. You'll also need to talk at your interview about your artistic influences and your musical career aims.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 or 3 A levels including music, or equivalent qualifications
- grade 8 in your main instrument
- to pass an audition
- a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study.



Career path and progression

Many musicians are self-employed freelancers and often have to do other jobs alongside their career as a musician.

With experience, you could:

- progress in an orchestra to principal player or section leader
- move into conducting
- start your own ensemble
- go into business roles like manager, producer, writer or work at a record company
- become a singing teacher, vocal coach or teach your musical instrument
- get into academic research.

Day to Day tasks:

- take part in recording sessions
- prepare for and attend auditions
- perform in front of a live audience
- compose, learn and rehearse music pieces
- take care of and set up your instrument for performances
- create 'demo' recordings to promote your music
- engage with your audience through social media and website content
- arrange concerts and tours or deal with a manager or agent who does this for you

Working conditions

You could be in a recording or TV/ radio studio, performing live in a range of venues or working from home/ office on a PC. Sometimes this can be a warm and uncomfortable environment.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Musicians

Weekly Pay £810	Annual Pay £42,120
Hours/Week 22h	Hourly Pay £37

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 0.5%	Replacement 57.7%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.5% over the period to 2027, creating 300 jobs. In the same period, 57.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 36,400 job openings.

You might find this job in
Arts & entertainment
Membership organisations
Services to buildings
Education
Sport & recreation

[More info](#)

[Clear card](#)

Actors, entertainers and presenters

Weekly Pay £1,120	Annual Pay £58,240
Hours/Week 43h	Hourly Pay £26

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 0.5%	Replacement 57.7%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.5% over the period to 2027, creating 300 jobs. In the same period, 57.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 32,400 job openings.

You might find this job in
Other personal service
Sport & recreation
Arts & entertainment
Membership organisations
Libraries, etc

[More info](#)

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Dancers and choreographers

Weekly Pay £760	Annual Pay £39,520
Hours/Week 29h	Hourly Pay £26

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 0.5%	Replacement 57.7%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 0.5% over the period to 2027, creating 100 jobs. In the same period, 57.7% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 11,000 job openings.

You might find this job in
Education
Arts & entertainment
Membership organisations

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information

Musicians

Musicians write, arrange, orchestrate, conduct and perform musical compositions.

Common tasks in this job:

- conceives and writes original music;
- tunes instrument and studies and rehearses score;
- plays instrument as a soloist or as a member of a group or orchestra;
- scores music for different combinations of voices and instruments to produce desired effect;

Back

Clear card

Actors, entertainers and presenters

Actors, entertainers and presenters sing, portray roles in dramatic productions, perform comedy routines, gymnastic feats and tricks of illusion, train animals to perform and perform with them, and introduce and present radio and television programmes.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies script, play or book and prepares and rehearses interpretation;
- assumes character created by a playwright or author and communicates this to an audience;
- performs singing, comedy, acrobatic, illusion and conjuring routines;
- trains animals to perform entertaining routines and may perform with them;

Back

Clear card

Dancers and choreographers

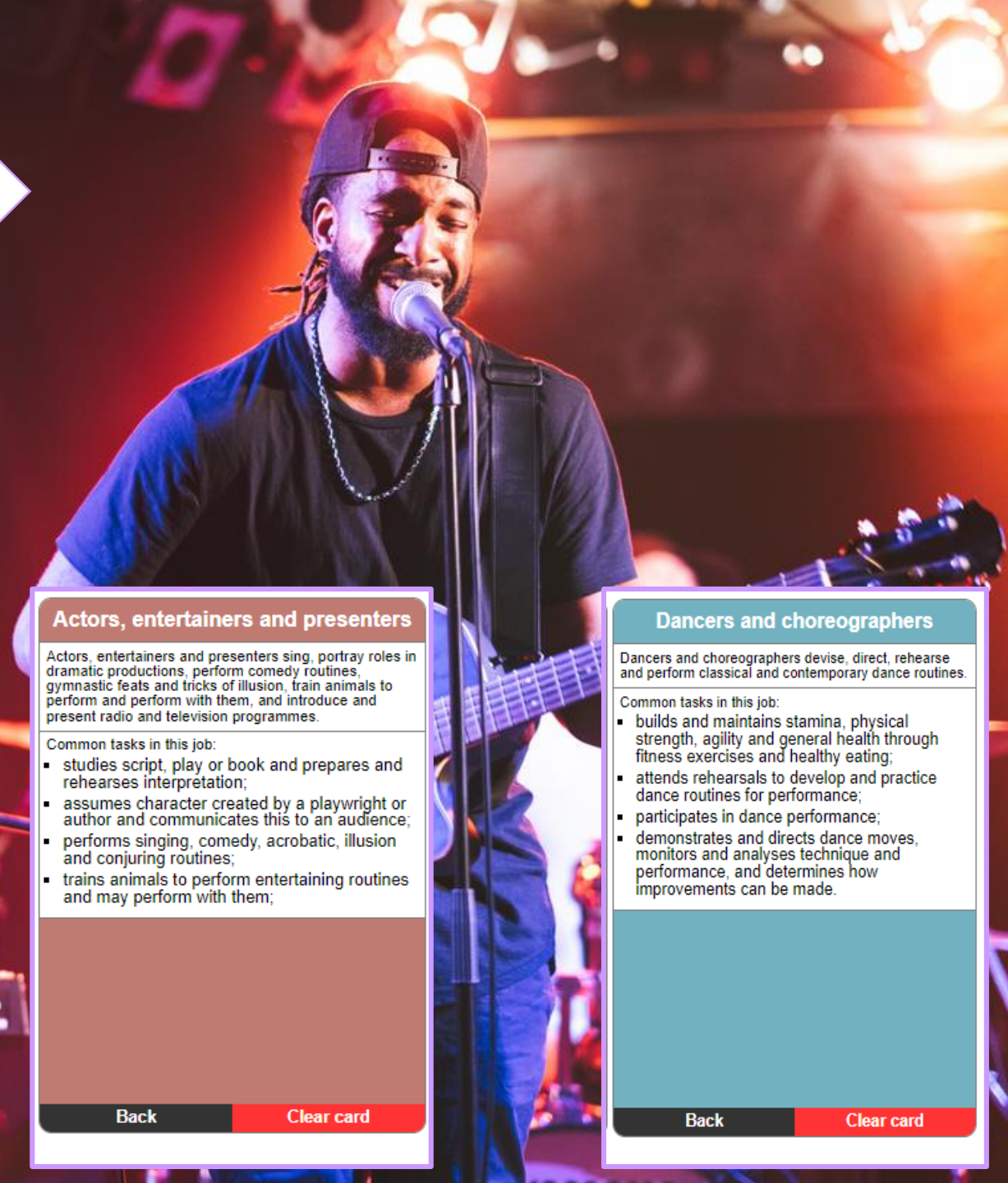
Dancers and choreographers devise, direct, rehearse and perform classical and contemporary dance routines.

Common tasks in this job:

- builds and maintains stamina, physical strength, agility and general health through fitness exercises and healthy eating;
- attends rehearsals to develop and practice dance routines for performance;
- participates in dance performance;
- demonstrates and directs dance moves, monitors and analyses technique and performance, and determines how improvements can be made.

Back

Clear card



Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

A day in the life of an Army Musician



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fi8wwrKDWXc&pp=ygUdQSBEQkgSU4gVEhFIExJRkUgTVVTSUNJQU4gVUs%3D>

The Sound of 007



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00dHNK3ihKw&pp=ygUfbXVzaWNpYW4gW4gdGhllHJveWFslG9yY2hlc3RyYQ%3D%3D>

How to get into the music industry



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwrBw8T07YU&pp=ygUdUFJPU1BFQ1RTIE1VU0ID>

What is a Session Musician



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb0Zcwmaw48&pp=ygUaV0hBVCBJUyBBIFNFU1NJTO4gTVVTSUNJQU4%3D>

Useful Websites

[Musician](#) | [Explore careers](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

[Upload Your Music Here - BBC Music Introducing](#)

[BBC Radio 3 - BBC Proms](#) - [BBC Young Composer](#)

[Musician \(mod.uk\)](#)

[Home](#) | [Royal Academy of Music \(ram.ac.uk\)](#)

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