

Singing Related Careers

There are many, many singing related careers to choose from. This list includes jobs that are *not* a professional singer. But it also includes careers that are for professional singers but not soloists. And for that rare solo career, we'll cover that in depth in the next chapter. Go through this section with a pencil or a highlighter. Cross out the ones that sound terrible and highlight the ones that are really interesting. Those interesting ones are the careers you want to learn more about.

Arts Management (aka Arts Administration)

These are the leaders of arts organizations like theater companies and opera houses. The ideal Arts Manager will have business acumen and a deep understanding of the art their organization delivers to the public. Many Universities offer master's degree programs in Arts Management.

www.internationalartsmanager.com

www.artsmanagement.net

Speech-Language Pathologist (aka Speech Therapists)

While these clinicians are known for helping patients with stutters and lisps, the job involves a large variety of issues involving the body's ability to communicate using the voice. This can cover anything from trouble swallowing to vocal nodes in singers. In the U.S., this job requires a master's degree in Communicative Disorders/Speech-Language Pathology, and doctoral programs are available. Those who specialize in treatment of vocalists are sometimes called "Voice Therapists."

www.asha.org/Students/Speech-Language-Pathology

voicefoundation.org

Vocologist

This is a relatively new field which specializes in rehabilitating and/or strengthening voices with a deep understanding of science. The Vocologist is a voice teacher with additional certifications, or a speech pathologist with performance training, who assists a medical team. There are university vocology programs available in the U.S., India, and Italy.

www.pava-vocology.org

www.ncvs.org

Music Therapist

Music Therapy is a proven technique used in Neuropathy to treat physical and mental issues. Music Therapists work in a wide variety of specialties such as memory work with the elderly, developmental assistance for patients with special needs, and

physical therapy rehabilitation. You might find this job at hospitals, schools, or even correctional facilities. Degrees in Music Therapy are available on all academic levels.
www.musictherapy.org

Primary/Secondary School Music Teacher

This is a job most High School students will be very familiar with! Specialization options include not just instrument(s)/voice and music theory but also many unique methodologies such as the Suzuki method and the Kodály Method. It is worth noting that there are often strict degree/certification requirements for teaching in public schools; these vary by location. (There are also pre-school positions available with organizations like Kindermusik.)

nafme.org

www.mtna.org

Post-Secondary School Music Teacher (Professor)

Most of these college-level educators specialize in vocal (or instrumental) performance, music theory, music history, or composition. Typically, universities require a doctoral degree for this position.

nafme.org

www.mtna.org

Diction Coach

A subset of dialog coaches, these professionals work with opera singers on proper articulation of the words in the libretto. The diction coach may also facilitate pre-performance vocal warm-ups and teach proper technique for reducing vocal damage.

www.vasta.org

Opera Director

This is a specialization option for a Stage Director which requires knowledge of opera rehearsal processes, and a knowledge of and love for opera as an art form. A director is responsible for coordinating the collaboration of all creative staff in a stage production. Most stage directors have at least a bachelor's degree in theatre production or a related field.

sdcweb.org

Professional Choral Singer

There are professional choirs all over the world, and especially in Los Angeles for film and TV, which pay their members the same way a symphony orchestra pays its musicians. However, most professional choristers work for religious organizations to lead worship music. This is not a job which usually pays all the bills on its own, but can

be done in conjunction with other work (like teaching or studio musicianship), and it can be a rewarding one.

www.choirplace.com

Songwriter

This is a field with a lot of different niches. Your success writing words and music for other performers is largely measured by how popular those performances become. Songwriters also must have some performance skill themselves for creating demo recordings for musicians and music publishers. A successful songwriter also exhibits persistence and strong business skills. There are degrees available in this field, but advanced study is not required.

www.songwritersguild.com

www.ascap.com/songwriter

americansongwriter.com

Music Supervisor (aka Music Director)

The Guild of Music Supervisors defines music supervisor as "A qualified professional who oversees all music related aspects of film, television, advertising, video games and any other existing or emerging visual media platforms as required." A broad understanding of music is essential to this role, as are strong business networking skills and legal knowledge. There is no set educational path for Music Supervisors.

www.guildofmusicsupervisors.com

www.songwriteruniverse.com/music-supervisors-directory.htm

Audio Engineer (aka Recording Engineer, Sound Engineer)

These highly-skilled technicians use recording equipment to shape the sound of a recorded performance. Sometimes, this person also fills the role of Music Producer. Formal education is not required for this job, but degrees in the field are offered at many universities.

www.aes.org

Music Producer

The producer oversees all aspects of creating recorded music. This includes writing and arrangement, and technical engineering. Sometimes, this person also fills the role of Audio Engineer. This job requires advanced and up-to-date technical knowledge, as well as very good business management and networking skills.

www.ampnw.com

pmamusic.com

Voice Teacher

A voice teacher helps students to develop their singing skills, including technical sound production and performance. Some are on staff at universities, while others run their own independent studio. A variety of formal degrees will prepare you to be a voice teacher, especially those focusing in vocal pedagogy.

www.nats.org

Choral Director

The director of a choir conducts rehearsals, recruits singers, selects music, and leads/organizes performances. A choral director may work for a church, school, or orchestra, or in rare cases, they may direct an independent performing group. Many universities offer bachelor's and advanced degrees in choral direction.

acda.org

www.choraldirectormag.com

Otolaryngologist

Also known as a specialized Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) doctor, these physicians diagnose and treat diseases in these areas, and other structures of the neck and face. This position requires fifteen years of formal training and (in the US) a certification from the American Board of Otolaryngology, plus additional training for any specializations.

www.aboto.org

Director of Music Ministry

This person organizes all worship music for a religious organization. Depending on the size of the organization, this could mean anything from directing a small choir of volunteers to managing a team of music professionals. There are some formal degree programs available in this field, but most Music Ministry Directors enter the field first as a choir director or accompanist.

www.nacmhq.com

www.worshipmusician.com

Teaching Artist (aka Artist Educator)

A Teaching Artist is a professional artist who teaches with the perspective of a working performer. They can be employed by arts organizations such as opera companies and symphonies, or schools and community organizations. No formal education is required, but skills in teaching and experience as a working artist are essential.

www.teachingartists.com/whatisaTeachingArtists.htm

teachingartistsguild.org

Voice Actor

These professionals find work in any setting where a character can be heard without the actor being seen. These mediums included animated film, dubbed foreign entertainment, radio, audiobooks, video games, and documentaries. No formal training is required, but acting (and sometimes singing) skills are a must-have. Business networking skills will also be useful to these professionals.

www.world-voices.org

Cantor

A cantor is a solo singer who leads traditional religious music. In the Jewish tradition, they are called Hazzanim and are recognized as clergy. There are formal education options for Jewish cantorial training. This title can also refer to a "precentor" or "protopsaltis" in the Christian tradition where precise duties will vary by organization.

www.cantors.org

Session Singer (aka Studio Musician, Backing Vocalist)

These performers provide temporary back-up for solo performers in recording sessions. They may also work for recording studios on advertising or soundtrack recordings. They rarely become well-known, but can gain wide respect within the music industry. Required skills include musical versatility and professional reliability. Also helpful are the abilities to harmonize and sight-read. A formal music degree is an option, but not necessary.

www.sagaftra.org

Music Arranger

An arranger transforms a melody into a full-fledged musical piece for performance. This requires advanced knowledge of music theory, and business networking skills. No formal degree is required, but many are offered.

www.asmac.org

Stage Manager

This person oversees the technical aspects of a live performance, including lighting and sound tech. They support the director, actors, and designers, and supervise the stage crew. Business management skills are a must, as well as extensive experience with stage productions. Formal training is not required, but is offered at many universities.

www.stagemanagers.org

This was a sample of some careers you can consider in order to have a balanced and fulfilling life full of singing. There are many more possible careers. You can help fill out this list by posting your ideas on NancyBos.net, or our Facebook or Instagram pages.

(Special thanks to Meghan Moore for building this list for us, and to CareersinMusic.com for being an excellent resource.)