

# Your Guide To Becoming A Musician

1

**Decide on your goals.** What kind of musician do you want to be? Do you want to be a professional musician? Do you want to be the 1st chair in your school band? Do you want to sing in your choir? Do you want to play for your family and friends? Do you want to be able to make music without falling apart? There are so many options. No goal is too small or too out of reach. You can do anything you want. You have to be clear on your goals and your 'why.' Because if you are not clear, you might lose motivation and stop before you learn the things you are destined to learn. We have one life on this earth - No regrets.

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**Decide what instrument you want to play.** There are many instruments to choose from. Find one that speaks to your soul. (Kindergarten-2nd graders should start with violin or piano lessons and may switch to another instrument when they're older.) You can always get advice from a professional musician.

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**Find a place to rent the instrument.** We do not recommend buying an instrument if you are new to playing, unless it is a piano or guitar. \*Do not buy or rent an instrument without speaking to a professional first.

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**Get a music stand.** You can find one online. Preferably not a wire stand.

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**Find a music teacher.** Do a little research. There are very few systems of checks and balances in the music world - anyone can say that they are a teacher. Here are some questions you might ask to find your perfect fit: Does the teacher have a degree in music? Do they have experience teaching? Are they experienced performers? Do they know how to teach technique? Can they tell students what and how to practice at home? Can they teach students how to read music? Do they like teaching?

# 6

## **Commit to regular, long-term lessons. I**

do not know how long it will take you to get to your goal. Each person is different.

Professional musicians who play for years might still go to their teachers. Just like any other art, you can always learn more. Even though I can't tell you how long it will take you, you will know when you have achieved your goal.

Here is a tip: Give it a good month with a teacher. In that month, you should have grown as a musician and developed a connection with your teacher. If that hasn't happened, you will know it isn't a good fit. Not every teacher is good for every student, so it might be a bit of trial and error, and that's okay. You can move to another teacher.

Commit to regular, long-term lessons no matter what. You will be amazed what you can achieve.

**7** **Whatever you do, DO NOT GIVE UP!** We live in a crazy time where a lot of things come easy. Your Amazon order comes in two days, your uber is there to pick you up in 5 minutes, you have thousands of movies at your fingertips on Netflix. Music is not one of those things. It takes time. It takes effort. Just because you can't play that scale yet, doesn't mean you aren't going to be good or that you don't have talent. Figure out your 'why', keep going, and don't talk yourself out of your dreams. Anyone can become a musician, even you.

**8** **Commit to regular practice outside of the lessons.** This is a big one. A lot of people are not able to do this step. It takes discipline. It takes self-motivation. Write it in your daily schedule. You should be practicing almost daily. It doesn't have to be for 8 hours a day, but a few minutes every day will help you get closer to your goals. (Do not cram all of your practicing in on the day of your lesson. You are developing muscle memory.)

**9** **As you start to learn, challenge yourself to perform for people.** It is one thing to play for your teacher, it is another thing to play for an audience.

We think of performances as growth markers, not the end product. There is nothing better that will show you how far you have come when you perform and nerves are in play. There is also nothing like the feeling of walking off the stage, or wherever you performed, knowing that you just did this scary thing. It is such a good feeling. This is a huge part of confidence building and being a musician.

Perform anywhere you can perform. It is not about the audience, it is about you feeling like a worthy person and a worthy musician no matter the circumstances.

# 10

**Develop your artistry.** Artistry is making music your own. When you have a strong understanding of the fundamentals and you have a strong foundation, you know generally what sound you are going to make before you make it, it is time to add your style.

You and your teacher will figure out what musical styles feel good to you and what you naturally gravitate towards. It is no longer just about playing the music correctly on the page - It is about finding your own musical voice. This is one of the most exciting parts of becoming a musician.

You'll know you are advancing when you can do this. \*Certain music programs out there claim to advance to this step before the foundation is in place. Be very weary of this.

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**Achieve your goal.** Whatever it was, big or small, involve your teacher in the planning.

If you would like to be a professional, you can start the audition process. If you would like to perform for family and friends, you can feel really good knowing that you learned how to do this step-by-step. You didn't skip over learning the foundation of music to get here.

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**Become a music leader.** Spread your knowledge, your education, your talent, your confidence, and your love of music to the world.

