Music programs prepare students for a variety of careers in music and provide individualized curriculum with a focus on quality instruction and practical experience in music education, performance, technology and composition. Music faculty members are active as performers, scholars and clinicians.

Programs at Montana State University are designed to enable students to have a concentration in music within the context of a broader education. The degree program enables the student the flexibility to pursue music studies while also studying a broad range of subjects outside of music. The School of Music encourages students, in conjunction with their academic advisor, to develop a plan of study that includes music and any additional areas of focus. The plan of study can be developed individually, or a student may select one of the Directed Tracks within the B.A. in Music.

The School is committed to contributing to the musical world through performance, scholarship, composition, leadership, and nurturing the musical expression, understanding, discovery, and creativity of its faculty and students.

Characteristics associated with success are being results oriented, creative, and passionate with an aptitude for exploring different kinds of music and creative collaboration with other disciplines.

Occupations in this field require the ability to:

- Have music reading skills or be willing to learn
- Play an instrument or study voice
- Be willing to take on responsibilities and challenges
- Be able to tolerate accepting criticism and stress
- Be innovative and creative
- Pay attention to detail
- Be able to solve technical and musical problems
- Be enterprising
- Be able to lead people and work well with teams
- Be open to taking risks
- Be adept at observing, receiving and obtaining information
- Be an effective communicator

Related occupations include:

- Music Directors
- Provide the musical background for live shows such as ballets, operas, musical theatre, and cabarets
- Music composers and Arrangers
- Singers and Musicians
- Composition, production, and marketing of independent music
- Music Therapists
- Radio and Television Announcers
- Play musical instruments as soloist, or as members or guest artists of musical groups such as orchestras, ensembles, or bands
**MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields**:  
Private Violin Teacher

**Salary averages of survey respondents (# of respondents in parentheses)**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MT:</th>
<th>Out-of-State:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$29,668 (28)</td>
<td>$33,577 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$22,139 (38)</td>
<td>$34,479 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$29,550 (2)</td>
<td>$23,475 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$25,040 (2)</td>
<td>$20,310 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the field for “Musicians and Singers” the median wages in the nation for 2012 was estimated at $48,880. In 2012 there were 176,200 positions nationally with an expected growth forecast of +10% through 2022. The median wages in Montana for 2012 is estimated at $19,095 annually. In 2012 there were 760 positions in Montana with -6% expected growth through 2022. Job openings nationally and in Montana are due to both growth and net replacement.

Please remember when reviewing the salary information that it is the “median”, meaning 50% of reported wages fell below and 50% above the reported wage.

**Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions**:

Montana State University

**Other Sources of Information**:

American Federation of Musicians: www.afm.org  
The College Music Society: www.music.org  
Music Teachers National Association: www.mtna.org  
Montana State University School of Music: www.montana.edu/music/musicba

*Insufficient Data*: Each year the Career, Internship & Student Employment Services Office at Montana State University conducts a survey to determine placement rates and salary survey information from recent MSU graduates. Graduates were requested to participate in the survey to provide relevant information regarding the transition from college to career/graduate school. At times, there are limited or no respondents. Statistics, therefore, are not always based upon the response of the total sample group and are sometimes listed as “Insufficient Data”.

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1Montana State University School of Music  
2Montana State University Career Services  
350% of reported wages fall below the Median wage and 50% above and include entry to senior level positions. This is not an average.  
4O*N*Net: online.onetcenter.org  
Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2009: N/A; 2010: N/A; 2011: 3/0; 2012: 6/2;