



# CONSIDER A CAREER IN MUSIC EDUCATION

## Why choose a career in music education?



- ♪ Share your **passion for music** with others.
- ♪ Positively **impact students' lives**.
- ♪ Fill music education **positions available** nationwide.
- ♪ **Expand musical experiences** in schools.
- ♪ **Advocate for the arts** in your community.

“The best part about being a music teacher is you get to go back the next day and do more and better for your students.”

— Dr. Alice M. Hammel, Instructor  
Music Education, James Madison University

“You should consider a career in music education because it is an unabashed love of one of the most moving and expressive art forms that exists paired with the incredible and unique opportunity to shape and touch the future.”

— Jared L. Cassidy, M.Ed.  
K-12 Performing Arts Coordinator  
LHS Wind Ensemble Director  
Lexington Public Schools

“The next generation of young people needs to understand that no matter where they are, they can always set their sights on a career as an educator.”

—Veronica Jackson, Orchestra Director  
Alexandria High School, Adjunct Professor  
George Mason University

“My goal as a music educator is to instill a love of learning and music in my students. Through music education, I hope to help students connect with each other and themselves, as well as have a way to express themselves and be creative in a positive way.”

—Kaitlyn Purcell  
Music Education and Performance Major  
University of Louisville

“There is no joy like seeing a child love music! Anyone can sing or play an instrument, but a child who has fun and feels safe in the music classroom carries that with them for the rest of their lives.”

—Claire Jones, Music Education Major  
Christopher Newport University





## How to Become a Music Teacher

- Connect with a music mentor and ask questions.
- Find a music education preparation program that fits you.
- Pursue educational courses on topics such as:
  - Music theory / Music history
  - Conducting / Music methods
  - Instrument-specific instruction
  - Vocal techniques
  - Music technology
  - Classroom instruction
  - Student evaluation
  - Lesson planning for music
  - and more!
- Gain hands-on experience through observing experienced teachers, lead lessons and activities under the supervision of a mentor teacher and receive feedback on your teaching.
- Pursue your certification to become a licensed professional. Every state has different certification requirements, learn more here: [nafme.org/careers/music-educator-certification](https://nafme.org/careers/music-educator-certification)
- Continue to grow your musical skills and understanding through performing, creating, responding, and connecting.

### Visit TeachMusic.org

A site dedicated to sharing information and resources for students, parents, teachers, and school counselors about a viable career in music education.

## NAfME is here for you every step of the way!

### Join a community of more than 57,000 music educators!

Since 1907, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) has advocated for equitable access to music education. Together with its affiliated state music education associations and partners at the national, state, and local levels, NAfME provides resources and opportunities for teachers, students, parents, and administrators.



Tri-M Music  
HONOR SOCIETY®

For students in grades 6-12, join the Tri-M® Music Honor Society, a program of NAfME which focuses on creating future leaders in music education and music advocacy. Tri-M® is the only music honor society, involving over 84,000 students across 50 states and 15 countries. Visit [nafme.org/Tri-M](https://nafme.org/Tri-M)



For students enrolled in higher education music programs, join NAfME Collegiate, the membership designed for future music educators. Connect with fellow aspiring music educators and professionals in the early stages of your career. Membership includes free professional development and access to activities and programs that will assist in preparing you for a successful and fulfilling career in music education. Visit [nafme.org/Collegiate](https://nafme.org/Collegiate)



National Association  
for Music Education

### NAfME Membership

Become a member of NAfME and join a community of music educators, researchers, administrators, and advocates! Collegiate members can take advantage of full NAfME membership at 50% off national dues your first year of teaching.

Visit [nafme.org/Membership](https://nafme.org/Membership)