BREAKING INTO THE MUSIC PROFESSION

STUDY GUIDE

DEVELOPING A PROFESSIONAL MUSIC NETWORK

There is no single pathway to breaking into the music profession. The journey for the professional classical musician, jazz musician, popular musician, or music educator are all different and require different approaches. One universal component, however, to any successful career in music is the utilization of a powerful professional network to create opportunities.

*Spark Curiosity!*  
Developing networking skills can not only help students towards their musical aspirations but can be beneficial in any career they wish to pursue.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Articulate the value and best practices while networking  
2. Identify people with shared interests who can form a network  
3. Learn about the various environments where people meet to network

LESSON PLANS

Consider developing lesson plans to meet these learning objectives through the practice of networking. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Encourage students to understand that networking is about developing quality relationships that are mutually beneficial. Listening to other people’s interests and goals are important. Have students break into small groups to discuss their interests in music. How could the students work together on a project? Where could the project lead in the future? Could working together lead to being introduced to more people that would expand their network?

- Who are the people that have the potential to become part of your network? Peers? Current professionals who might offer a referral? Are there people in disciplines other than music that would be good to have in your network? Film makers? Video game designers? Entrepreneurs? Community arts presenters? Educators?

- Where could you go to meet people who could become part of your network? Concerts? Professional conferences and conventions? Online forums? School clubs?

RESOURCES
