DISCOVERING THE RIGHT MUSIC CAREER

STUDY GUIDE

LOOKING AT ALL THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A LIFE AND CAREER IN MUSIC
When we think of having a career in music, we often think in terms of becoming a performer as this is the most recognizable activity in music. For some, a career in performance is a perfect fit. However, there are a wide range of careers in music beyond performance that include technology, business, education, and administration only to name a few. The journey to discover our own strengths and skill sets that intersect with opportunities in the music profession can be rewarding and enlightening!

Spark Curiosity!
Engaging students in conversations about careers in music beyond performance might ignite a passion in a newly discovered aspect of music.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
1. Identify how an individual's strengths and skills sets can excel in different music careers
2. Understand what is involved in various music careers through “prototype conversations”
3. Articulate a plan for pursuing the various music careers that are of interest

LESSON PLANS
Consider developing lesson plans to meet these learning objectives through exploring various music careers. Here are some ideas to get you started that have been adapted from the Stanford Life Design Lab:

- Have students consider “multiple lives” in the music profession: an optimized life (a career that maximizes work elements that energize you and minimizes elements that drain you); an alternative life (a career that you’d have if your optimized career was no longer possible); a fascinated life (a career in which money or image were not an object.)
- Encourage students to learn about music careers that are in their optimized, alternative and fascinated lives through “prototype conversations.” A prototype conversation is essentially an interview with a current professional to get an accurate sense of the pros and the cons of each career.
- After considering “multiple lives” in the music profession and conducting prototype conversations, have students articulate a plan for achieving these careers. How can they continue to build their skill set towards these goals? Is additional school/training required?

RESOURCES
Stanford Life Design Lab YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJiuMrUqfvaZGhj6rr3o9Qw/featured

Stanford Life Design Lab: https://lifedesignlab.stanford.edu/