

WORK SMARTS™

Music Smart

What Is It?

Music smarts (or musical intelligence) is the ability to perceive, discriminate, transform, and express musical forms. This includes being sensitive to rhythm, pitch, melody, and timbre of music. In other words, people who have highly developed music smarts tend to love music and rhythmic sounds. They interact with their environment through sound and vibration. Because various sounds have a heightened effect on them, they are good at any occupation that requires sensitivity to rhythm, pitch, and melody.

How They Learn

People with music smarts learn best when they are able to use their senses of rhythm, melody, and harmony. They enjoy lectures and presentations that incorporate music and other tonal elements. They enjoy creating and writing songs. They learn from performing and hearing others perform, and do their best work with music playing in the background.

Music Smarts & Careers

People possessing music smarts are best suited for occupations that rely on auditory and vibrational cues, including tones, beats, rhythms, sounds, and music. Music smart people are often very creative and have abilities related to music and musical occupations. They are able to create music, perform music, and guide and mentor others in the production of music and musical instruments. Many people with this intelligence find occupations where their love of music can be implemented for their benefit and the benefit of others. Though the number of jobs involving or requiring music smarts is small, individuals who value this intelligence are often willing to work hard to get them.

Keep This in Mind

Look at the big picture – You probably have and use most of the eight intelligences to some degree or another throughout your daily life. You may even excel at multiple intelligences and use them effectively in your career. That’s why it can be useful to read through the materials for each intelligence.

Develop career aspirations – The theory of multiple intelligences can help you explore intelligences you possess and then use this knowledge to help you make career choices. Remember that the *Work Smarts* assessment is not designed to match you with an occupation, but it can help you explore many occupations related to your intelligences that you might not have considered before.

Embrace your strengths – Remember that multiple intelligences stretch over a wide spectrum of abilities, not just those traditionally valued by society, such as English and math. Now is your chance to see the different ways that you are intelligent and to capitalize on your strengths.

Don’t ignore hidden intelligences – The theory of multiple intelligences allows you to identify and work to develop your hidden or underdeveloped intelligences. It is never too late to awaken unused abilities. Doing so can even open up career paths that you will find more productive and rewarding.

“Music is the universal language of mankind.” – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Top Occupations for Music Smart People

Sound Engineering Technicians operate machines and equipment to record, synchronize, mix, or reproduce music, voices, or sound effects in sporting arenas, theater productions, recording studios, or movie and video productions.

Outlook: Average (7% to 13%) growth with a need for 7,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$46,550/year

Music Directors direct and conduct instrumental or vocal performances by musical groups, such as orchestras or choirs.

Outlook: Average (7% to 13%) growth with a need for 68,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$40,150/year

Instrumental Musicians play one or more musical instruments in recital; in accompaniment; or as members of an orchestra, band, or other musical group.

Outlook: Average (7% to 13%) growth with a need for 60,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: Varies

Music Composers and Arrangers write and transcribe musical scores.

Outlook: Average (7% to 13%) growth with a need for 23,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$40,150/year

Music Smart Workplace Skills

Apply music theory to create musical and tonal structures.

Use computers and synthesizers to compose, orchestrate, and arrange music.

Guide musicians during rehearsals, performances, and recording sessions.

Provide the musical background for live shows such as ballets, operas, musical theatre, and cabarets.

Focus on a single source of sound in the presence of other distracting sounds or tell the differences between sounds that vary in pitch and loudness.

Profiles in Intelligence

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was one of the most prolific musical composers of all time. Born in Salzburg, Germany, he was an accomplished pianist and violinist by the age of five. Mozart composed more than six hundred musical works that included a variety of operas, symphonies, chamber music, choral music, and piano pieces. Considered a musical prodigy, the legacy he created through his musical intelligence will live forever.

MI Resources

Multiple Intelligences: New Horizons in Theory and Practice, Howard Gardner

7 Kinds of Smart: Identifying and Developing Your Multiple Intelligences, Thomas Armstrong

www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple_intelligences.htm

www.newhorizons.org/strategies/mi/front_mi.htm