

First Destination Survey Report | Spring 2018

A summary of results from the 2017 Berklee First Destination Survey distributed to students who graduated from Berklee College of Music and the Boston Conservatory at Berklee in 2016.

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Introduction

In fall 2017, a “first destination” survey was administered to recent alumni who graduated in 2016 to assess employment- and career-related outcomes for graduates who are one-year post-graduation. This survey serves as a bridge between the Exit Survey that is administered to graduating students during their cap and gown distribution and the biannual survey sent to all alumni. Of the 745 graduates contacted, 69 unique responses were collected, resulting in a nine percent response rate across Berklee.

Campus	Responses	Graduates	Rate
Berklee Boston	35	562	6%
Boston Conservatory	34	183	19%
Total	69	745	9%

Since the 2016 graduating class was the final graduating class before the merger with the Boston Conservatory, this report separates the results into two sections: first, the results of Berklee College of Music graduates, and second, Boston Conservatory at Berklee graduates. Comparisons to the 2016 Exit Survey are presented for those questions for which data are available.

Berklee College of Music

Primary activity after graduation

Eighty percent of respondents reported their primary activity as employed or self-employed. None reported having an internship. Another 11 percent are enrolled in other degree programs of continuing education, and six percent of respondents are seeking employment.

Activity	Responses	%
Employed	20	57%
Self-employed	8	23%
Continuing education ¹	4	11%
Seeking employment	2	6%
Other	1	3%
Internship	0	0%
Total	35	100%

“Which one of the following best describes your primary activity after graduation?”

Sixty-one percent of respondents engage in their primary activity in the United States, while the other 39 percent are in one of nine other countries. Of the respondents whose primary activity is in the United States, nearly one-third are located in Massachusetts or New York. Overall, sixty-one percent of respondents are authorized to work legally in the United States, and only 15 percent have professional representation.

¹ Includes respondents who are accepted or have enrolled in graduate school or another program of continuing education.

Table 3. Country of primary activity		
Country	Responses	%
United States	19	61%
Canada	3	10%
France	2	6%
Germany	1	3%
Other Countries	6	19%
Total	31	100%

"Please identify the country where you will engage in this activity. "Other countries" include Australia, China, Denmark, Italy, UK, and Other."

Table 4. State of primary activity		
US State	Responses	%
Massachusetts	3	16%
New York	3	16%
California	2	11%
Tennessee	2	11%
Other States	9	47%
Total	19	100%

"Of those who identified their primary activity is in the United States, the state of the activity. "Other states" includes 8 other states."

Table 5. Authorization to work in the U.S.		
	Responses	%
Yes	20	61%
No	13	39%
Total	33	100%

"Are you authorized to work permanently in the U.S.?"

Table 6. Professional representation		
	Responses	%
Yes	5	15%
No	29	85%
Total	34	100%

"Do you have professional representation, such as an agent or manager?"

Employment and internships

Of the 20 respondents who selected "employed" as their primary activity, 16 provided additional information about their employment. The majority of these respondents (63 percent) are employed in part-time positions. Only two respondents shared an annual salary, with a median of \$42,000. Four respondents shared their hourly wage, with a median of \$42.75 per hour. A full list of employers and job titles is available in appendix A.

Table 7. Employment type		
	Responses	%
Full-time	6	38%
Part-time	10	63%
Total	16	100%

Table 7. Of those who selected employed as a primary activity, is employment full-time or part-time?

Table 8. Compensation type		
	Responses	%
Annual Salary	4	29%
Hourly Wage	10	71%
Total	14	100%

Table 8. Of those who selected employed as a primary activity, is compensation salary or hourly?

Table 9. Compensation amount		
	Annual Salary (n=2)	Hourly Wage (n=4)
Average	\$42,000	\$73.38/hr
Median	\$42,000	\$42.75/hr
Range	\$32,000-\$52,000	\$8/hr - \$200/hr

Table 9. Of those who selected employed as a primary activity, what is your compensation?

Music- or performing arts-related employment

Of the respondents who selected their primary activity as employed, self-employed, or in an internship, seventy-two percent indicated their primary activity was music- or performing-arts related. These respondents were then asked to select a category that best describes their employment. Over half (61 percent) are employed in performance or production.

Seven respondents indicated that their primary activity was not music- or performing-arts related. Of these, six selected a category that best describes their employment and half reported being employed in the hospitality/service industry. Additionally, respondents were asked if they had an additional job related to music or the performing arts. Sixty-four percent of respondents indicated that they did, with most also employed in performance or production.

Table 10. Employment related to music or performing arts		
	Responses	%
Yes	18	72%
No	7	28%
Total	25	100%
"Of those who selected employed, self-employed, or internship as a primary activity, is your employment related to music/performing arts?"		

Table 11. Category of music- or performing-arts related employment		
Category	Responses	%
Performance	6	33%
Production	5	28%
Business	2	11%
Education	2	11%
Composition	1	6%
Technology	1	6%
Other	1	6%
Total	18	100%
"Of those who selected employed in music/performing arts, which category best describes the nature of employment?"		

Table 12. Additional employment related to music or performing arts		
	Responses	%
Yes	16	64%
No	9	36%
Total	25	100%
"Of those who selected employed, self-employed, or internship as a primary activity, is your employment related to music/performing arts?"		

Table 13. Category of additional music- or performing-arts related employment		
Category	Responses	%
Performance	5	31%
Production	5	31%
Education	4	25%
Business	1	6%
Technology	1	6%
Total	16	100%
"Of those who selected an additional job in music/performing arts, which category best describes the nature of the additional job?"		

*Selected Comparisons to the 2016 Exit Survey*²

In the spring 2016 Exit Survey, only fifty-six percent of graduating students indicated they were employed (14 percent), self-employed (29 percent), or in an internship (13 percent). More than one-third of graduating students were seeking employment and another six percent were enrolled in continuing education programs. In 2017, the percentage of employed respondents increased significantly as the graduates have solidified their post-graduate activities and the percentage of those seeking employment decreased.

Respondents who selected their primary activity as employed, self-employed, or in an internship were asked if their primary activity was music- or performing-arts related.³ The majority of the 2016 graduating class (92 percent) indicated that their primary activity after graduation was related to music. In 2017, only 72 percent of respondents indicated that their primary activity was related to music or the performing arts.

Similarly, most of the respondents who were employed in 2016 indicated that they would be working full-time (69 percent). In contrast, only 38 percent of 2017 respondents reported being employed in full-time positions. There was a slight decrease in the median annual salary reported (\$45,000/year in 2016 vs. \$42,000/year in 2017), but an increase in the median hourly wage (\$15.00/hour in 2016 vs. \$42.75/hour in 2017).

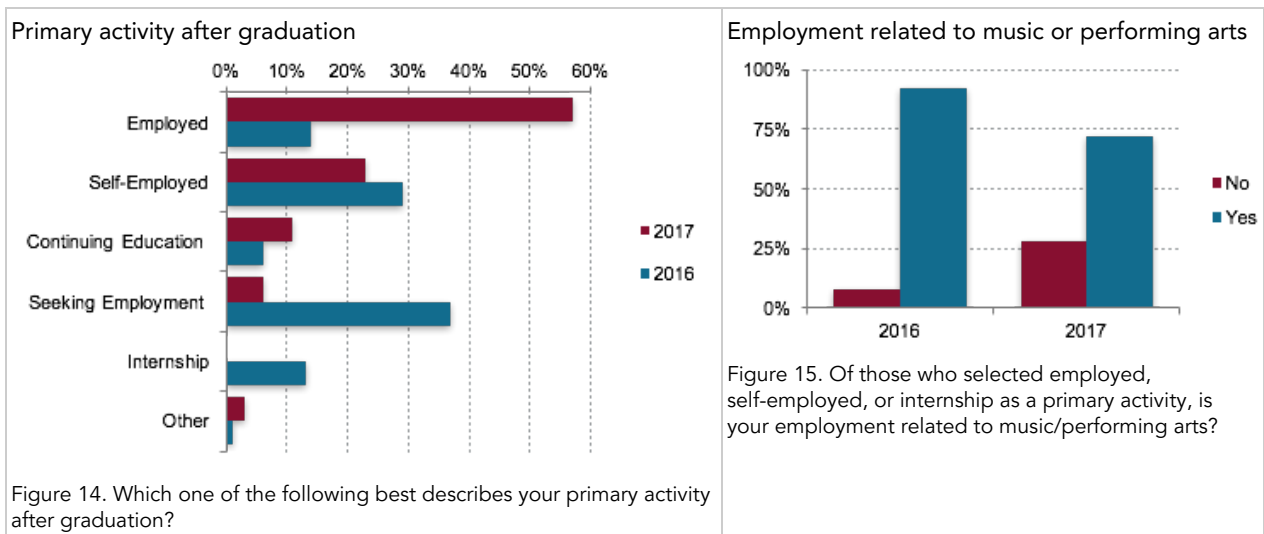


Figure 14. Which one of the following best describes your primary activity after graduation?

Figure 15. Of those who selected employed, self-employed, or internship as a primary activity, is your employment related to music/performing arts?

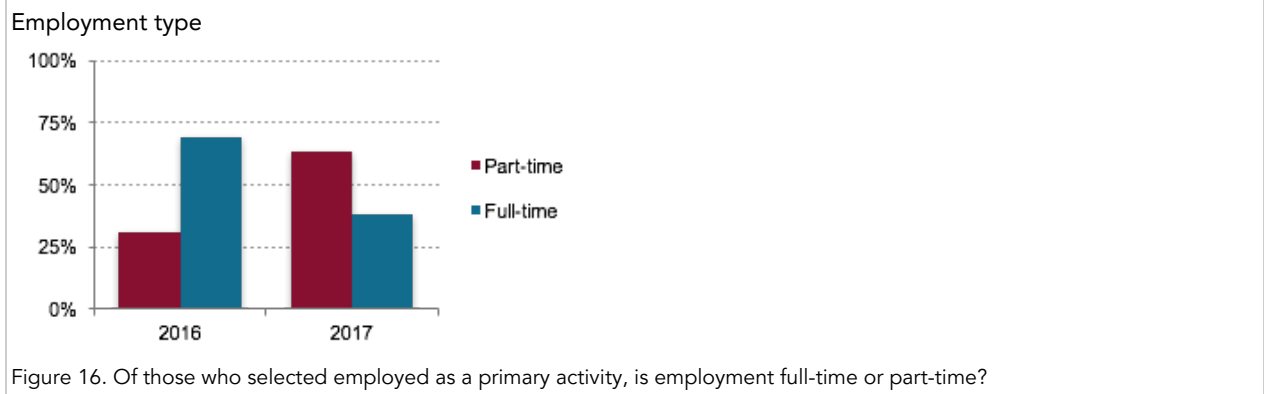


Figure 16. Of those who selected employed as a primary activity, is employment full-time or part-time?

² Note that the response rate to the 2017 first destination survey for these selected comparisons is very low at only six percent.

³ In the 2016 Exit Survey respondents were asked only if their primary activity was music related.

Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Primary activity after graduation

Eighty percent of respondents reported their primary activity as employed, self-employed, or in an internship. Just over 10 percent of respondents are seeking employment, and nine percent are enrolled in master's programs. The majority of respondents (93 percent) engage in their primary activity in the United States. Of these respondents, over 70 percent live in Massachusetts and New York. Ninety-one percent are authorized to work legally in the United States, and 18 percent have professional representation.

Activity	Responses	%
Employed	22	65%
Self-employed	4	12%
Seeking employment	4	12%
Continuing education ⁴	3	9%
Internship	1	3%
Other	0	0%
Total	34	100%

"Which one of the following best describes your primary activity after graduation?"

Country	Responses	%
United States	28	93%
Canada	1	3%
China	1	3%
Total	30	100%

"Please identify the country where you will engage in this activity."

US State	Responses	%
Massachusetts	10	38%
New York	9	35%
California	2	8%
Illinois	1	4%
Other States	4	15%
Total	26	100%

"Of those who identified their primary activity is in the United States, the state of the activity. "Other states" includes 4 other states."

	Responses	%
Yes	31	91%
No	3	9%
Total	34	100%

"Are you authorized to work permanently in the U.S.?"

	Responses	%
Yes	6	18%
No	28	82%
Total	34	100%

"Do you have professional representation, such as an agent or manager?"

⁴ Includes respondents who are accepted or have enrolled in graduate school or another program of continuing education.

Employment and internships

Of the 22 respondents who selected “employed” as their primary activity, 18 answered additional questions about their employment. The percentage of full-time and part-time employment is divided equally. No respondents shared their annual wage information, but six shared their hourly wage, with a median of \$18.00 per hour. A full list of employers and job titles is available in appendix C.

Table 22. Employment type		
	Responses	%
Full-time	9	50%
Part-time	9	50%
Total	18	100%
“Of those who selected employed as a primary activity, is employment full-time or part-time?”		

Table 23. Compensation type		
	Responses	%
Annual Salary	5	28%
Hourly Wage	13	72%
Total	18	100%
“Of those who selected employed as a primary activity, is compensation salary or hourly?”		

Table 24. Compensation amount	
Hourly Wage (n=6)	
Average	\$20.67/hr
Median	\$18.00/hr
Range	\$13/hr - \$40/hr
“Of those who selected employed as a primary activity, what is your compensation?”	

Music- or performing-arts related employment

Respondents who selected their primary activity as employed, self-employed, or in an internship were asked if their primary activity was related to music or the performing arts. Eighty-four percent of these respondents indicated that this was the case. Over half (52 percent) of these respondents are involved in performance and more than a quarter (29 percent) are involved in education.

Table 25. Employment related to music or performing arts		
	Responses	%
Yes	21	84%
No	4	16%
Total	25	100%
“Of those who selected employed, self-employed, or internship as a primary activity, is your employment related to music/performing arts?”		

Table 26. Category of music or performing arts		
Category	Responses	%
Performance	11	52%
Education	6	29%
Business	2	10%
Production	1	5%
Technology	1	5%
Total	21	100%
“Of those who selected employed in music or performing arts, which category best describes the nature of employment?”		

Of the four respondents who indicated their primary activity was not music- or performing-arts related, the three that answered additional questions reported being employed in hospitality/service (67 percent) and media/entertainment (33 percent) occupations. Sixty-nine percent of respondents indicated that they had an additional music- or performing-art related job, with the majority employed in education or performance.

	Responses	%
Yes	18	69%
No	8	31%
Total	26	100%
"Of those who selected employed, self-employed, or internship as a primary activity, is your employment related to music/performing arts?"		

Category	Responses	%
Education	8	47%
Performance	6	35%
Production	2	12%
Business	1	6%
Total	17	100%
"Of those who selected an additional job in music/performing arts, which category best describes the nature of the additional job?"		

Summary

Despite the low response rate, this survey captures potentially valuable information regarding the post-graduation outcomes of recent Berklee graduates after one year and how these outcomes compare to the data collected at graduation. After one year, the percentage of employed respondents increases significantly and nearly three quarters of graduates indicate that their primary activity is related to music or the performing arts. As efforts are made to increase response rates for future cohorts this survey can serve as an informative tool through which Berklee can assess employment- and career-related paths of its graduates.

Appendix A: List of Employers and Job Titles – Berklee College of Music

Employer Name	Job Title
Alberta Greenhouse	Budtender
Bach to Rock	Instructor
Beatstreet NYC	Sound Designer / Audio Engineer
Demos'	Server
Izotope Inc.	Sound Designer
Montreal Music Academy	Teacher
Noble House Hotels and Resorts	Reservations Sales Agent
Shaun Barrowes	--
Sony Music Entertainment	Marketing / A&R

Appendix B: List of Continuing Education Programs – Berklee College of Music

Institution	Degree/Certificate	Program
Los Angeles College of Music	Other Degree	Songwriting
Los Angeles College of Music	--	--
Spatech.edu	Other Degree	Holistic Massage Therapy

Appendix C: List of Employers and Job Titles – Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Employer Name	Job Title
All Together Entertainment	Performer
Bay View Academy Charter School	Music and Performing Arts Instructor
Black Sheep Contemporary Ensemble	Artistic & Executive Director, Woodwinds
Boston Symphony Orchestra	Box Office Representative
Bridgewater State University	Tuba Instructor
Broadway Asia International	General Management Intern
Community MusicWorks	Fellow
Green Room Studios	Dance Teacher
Minnesota Orchestra	Part-Time Library Researcher
New England Aquarium	--
North Shore Music Theatre	Actor
Pittsburgh Opera	Resident Artist
Promethean Theatre	Actress
Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, A Dance Company	Dancer
Shanghai Symphony Orchestra	Percussionist
The Cliffs Climbing and Fitness	Youth Coach
The FULTON Theatre	Actor in A Christmas Story
The Metropolitan Opera Guild	Teaching Artist
Woolrich, John Rich & Bros	Sales Associate

Appendix D: List of Continuing Education Programs – Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Institution	Degree/Certificate	Program
Boston University	Master's Degree	Historical Performance
Mannes School of Music	Master's Degree	Vocal Performance
University of Michigan	Master's Degree	Vocal Performance