GENERAL

how to write a music resume

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How to Write a Music Resume: A Step by Step Guide for Musicians, Composers, and Educators

Whether you're a seasoned performer, a budding composer, or a music teacher looking to land a new position, a well crafted resume is your first opportunity to impress a hiring manager, agent, or audition panel. In the competitive world of music, your résumé must do more than list facts; it should tell a compelling story about your artistic journey, technical prowess, and professional accomplishments. This guide will walk you through every element of a music resume, share insider tips for writing and formatting, and give you a ready to use template so you can hit the ground running.

Why a Music Resume Matters

A music resume is the bridge between your talent and the opportunities you seek. Unlike a general résumé, a music résumé showcases your artistic identity, your breadth of experience, and your dedication to the craft. It's the first document a director, producer, or school administrator will read, and it often determines whether you get a callback or an audition. A polished resume can:

- Highlight your unique skill set and achievements
- Demonstrate your commitment to continuous learning
- Showcase your versatility across performance, composition, and teaching
- Help you stand out in a crowded field
- Serve as a living record of your career growth

Because the music industry values authenticity and precision, your résumé must be both accurate and artistically engaging. Below, we'll break down the essential sections and provide actionable advice for each.

Key Sections of a Music Resume

While every musician's journey is unique, most effective music resumes contain the same core components. Arrange these sections logically so the reader can quickly scan your credentials.

Keep this section simple and professional. Include:

- Your full name (use the name you perform under)
- Phone number (preferably a mobile number)
- Email address (use a professional address, e.g., john.doe@email.com)
- Website or portfolio link (if you have a dedicated site)
- LinkedIn profile (optional but recommended for networking)

Do not include a photo unless specifically requested; most music employers rely on your résumé and a demo reel to evaluate you.

Craft a concise paragraph (3–4 sentences) that captures your identity, specialties, and career goals. Use strong action verbs and quantify achievements where possible.

Example:"Dynamic jazz saxophonist with 8 years of experience performing with leading New York ensembles. Specializes in improvisation and contemporary compositions. Seeking a touring position with a national jazz

orchestra."

List degrees, diplomas, and specialized training in reverse chronological order. Include:

- Institution name and location
- Degree or certification earned
- Field of study (e.g., Performance, Composition, Music Education)
- Graduation year (or expected graduation)
- Notable coursework or projects relevant to the position
- Mentors or notable instructors (if they are well known figures in the industry)

Showcase your gigs, tours, and recitals. Structure each entry with:

1. Role (e.g., Lead Saxophonist, Soloist, Ensemble Member)
2. Venue or organization (e.g., Carnegie Hall, The Jazz Institute)
3. Dates of engagement (month and year)
4. Highlights (e.g., "Performed with 20 piece orchestra," "Played at Carnegie Hall for 3 consecutive nights")

Use bullet points to list key responsibilities or achievements. For example:

- Performed solo and ensemble pieces at Carnegie Hall (March 2023 – May 2023)
- Collaborated with 12 member chamber group on a commissioned work by John Williams
- Lead performer for the annual NYC Jazz Festival, attracting over 5,000 attendees

Even if you're primarily a performer, teaching experience can demonstrate leadership, communication, and curriculum development skills. Include:

- Position title (e.g., Private Instructor, Assistant Professor)
- Institution or studio name
- Teaching dates
- Student demographics (e.g., ages, skill levels)
- Curriculum highlights (e.g., "Developed a jazz theory module for high school students")

For composers and arrangers, this section showcases your creative output. Include:

- Title of work
- Instrumentation or ensemble (e.g., "String Quartet," "Jazz Big Band")
- Commissioning body or performer (if applicable)
- Year of completion
- Performance or recording highlights (e.g., "Performed at the 2022 International Composer's Festival")

Highlight any awards, scholarships, or notable recognitions. Order them by date, and include the awarding body and the year received.

List software, instruments, and other technical proficiencies that are relevant to the role. Examples include:

- Instruments: Saxophone, Piano, Guitar, Percussion
- Software: Sibelius, Finale, Logic Pro, Ableton Live, Pro Tools
- Programming: Python for algorithmic composition, Max/MSP
- Other skills: Studio recording, audio engineering, mixing, mastering

Include 2–3 professional references who can attest to your musicianship. Provide their name, title, organization, email, and phone number. Always ask permission before listing someone as a reference.

Writing Tips for a Polished Music Resume

Most hiring managers skim résumés quickly. Aim for one page if you have less than five years of experience. If you have a long career, two pages are acceptable, but every line must add value.

Begin each bullet point with a powerful verb to convey impact:

- Performed
- Collaborated
- Composed
- Led
- Directed
- Mentored
- Recorded
- Produced

Numbers provide context. Instead of “Performed in many concerts,” say “Performed in 25 concerts across three major U.S. cities.”

While you can maintain a master résumé, create a version tailored to the specific job or audition. Highlight experiences that align with the role’s requirements.

- Use a clean, readable font (e.g., Times New Roman, Garamond, or Calibri) at 10–12 points
- Consistent heading styles (e.g., all h2 for major sections)
- Left align text; avoid excessive spacing
- Include a subtle line or divider between sections for visual clarity

Sample Music Resume Template

Below is a ready to use template you can copy into a word processor or HTML editor. Replace the placeholder text with your own details.

```
&lt;h2&gt;Jane Doe&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;p&gt;Phone: (555) 123-4567 | Email: jane.doe@email.com | Website: www.janedoe.com&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;Professional Summary&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;p&gt;Accomplished violinist with 12 years of experience performing with orchestras, chamber groups, and contemporary ensembles. Specializes in contemporary classical repertoire and improvisation. Seeking a principal position with a leading symphony orchestra.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;Education &amp; Training&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;ul&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Master of Music in Performance, Juilliard School, New York, NY – 2019&lt;/li&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Bachelor of Music in Performance, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI – 2015&lt;/li>
&lt;/ul&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;Performance Experience&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;ul&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Principal Violin, New York Philharmonic, 2020–Present
    &lt;ul&gt;
      &lt;li&gt;Performed under conductors such as Gustavo Dudamel and Yannick Nézet  Séguin.&lt;/li&gt;
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      &lt;li&gt;Featured soloist in “Modern Classics” concert series, 2021.&lt;/li&gt;
    &lt;/ul&gt;
  &lt;/li&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Concertmaster, Chamber Orchestra of the Americas, 2018–2020
    &lt;ul&gt;
      &lt;li&gt;Led 20  piece ensemble in 30+ concerts across the U.S. and Europe.&lt;/li&gt;
    &lt;/ul&gt;
  &lt;/li&gt;
&lt;/ul&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;Teaching Experience&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;ul&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Adjunct Professor, Music Department, Columbia University, 2019–Present
    &lt;ul&gt;
      &lt;li&gt;Developed curriculum for advanced violin techniques and contemporary repertoire.&lt;/li&gt;
      &lt;li&gt;Mentored 15 undergraduate students to audition for top conservatories.&lt;/li&gt;
    &lt;/ul&gt;
  &lt;/li&gt;
&lt;/ul&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;Compositions &amp;amp; Arrangements&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;ul&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;“Echoes of the River” – String Quartet, commissioned by the New York Chamber Orchestra, 2021&lt;/li&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;“Urban Pulse” – Jazz Big Band arrangement, performed by the New York Jazz Ensemble, 2020&lt;/li&gt;
&lt;/ul&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;Awards &amp;amp; Recognitions&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;ul&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;First Prize, International Violin Competition, 2016&lt;/li&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Fulbright Scholarship, 2014–2015&lt;/li&gt;
&lt;/ul&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;Technical Skills&lt;/h2&gt;
&lt;ul&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Instruments: Violin, Viola, Piano&lt;/li&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Software: Sibelius, Finale, Logic Pro, Pro Tools&lt;/li&gt;
  &lt;li&gt;Studio Recording &amp;amp; Mixing&lt;/li&gt;
&lt;/ul&gt;

&lt;h2&gt;References&lt;/"'
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Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

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