



Case Studies and Professional Guides for Composers

Compiled by [Peabody LAUNCHPad](#), updated July. 2018

THE BUSINESS OF BEING A COMPOSER

[The Composer's Guide to Doing Business](#)

Dennis Tobenski on promotion, working with ensembles, earning passive income from sales and royalties, and more.

[Collaboration and the Composer: Case Studies from the End of the 20th Century](#)
Profiles of working composers; emphasizes the importance of collaboration and wearing multiple hats.

[Commissioning Music: A Basic Guide](#)

Geared to those who commission composers, but provides helpful fee structures. Also see [Sample Contracts](#) via GALA Choruses and "[Components of a Commission Contract](#)" by Stacy Garrop.

[Art and Democracy: The NEA, Kickstarter, and Creativity in America](#)

Ian David Moss examines the Kickstarter phenomenon and its role in funding new music projects.

[Artist Revenue Streams](#)

Revenue streams for diverse musicians, including different types of composers. Also interviews and case studies.

[Hi, I'm Adam Schoenberg](#)

Edna Landau writes on MusicalAmerica.com about how Adam gained opportunities through networking.

[Kickstarter Budgeting and Planning](#)

Kevin Clark offers spreadsheets & tips.

[Articles by David Smooke](#)

The composer and Peabody faculty member writes broadly on NewMusicBox.org about the practice of being a professional composer.

[The Entrepreneurial Symphony](#)

Composer Jeff Nytch on the genesis, funding, and premiere of his first symphony.

GETTING YOUR MUSIC OUT THERE

[Advice to Composers Just Starting Out](#)

New-music flutist Meerenai Shim on how composers can reach out to performers. Includes a sample first-contact email.

[John Mackey on Self-Publishing](#)

The benefits and pitfalls of self-publishing.

[Composition Applications for Beginners](#)

Tips for preparing materials for score calls, by Jen Wang of Wild Rumpus New Music Collective

[The Future of the Recording Industry](#)

2010 Interview in the *Washington Post* with Klaus Heymann, Founder of Naxos.

[The Muse that Sings](#)

Book containing interviews with prominent American composers about their creative processes and careers. By Anne McCutchan (Oxford, 2003).

[Randy Gibson](#)

Abandoned academia and went to private composition study in New York with La Monte Young, which helped him find his voice as a composer.

[Typical Composition Career Options](#)

A list with concise descriptions published by the Composition Department at the Catholic University of America.

[Annie Gosfield's Advice to Young Composers](#)

Broadly applicable insights and examples.

[Dealing With Disappointment](#)

Composer and producer Randy Hoexter talks about handling career setbacks.

[New Music Map](#)

Interactive map shows connections among contemporary composers, grouping them into hubs based on style.

COMPETITIONS

[Thoughts on Composition Contests](#)

Composer Joseph Eidson reflects.

[Hilary Hahn's Encore Contest](#)

Hahn talks about her contest and judging process.

[Eric Whitacre on Competitions](#)

Sage advice and helpful case examples.

Search for competitions via the [PCS Job Search Page](#).

PRESENTING YOUR WORK

PROFESSIONALLY

[Score Preparation Guidelines](#)

David Dzubay on preparing scores (e.g., never use landscape orientation).

[Music Preparation Guidelines for Orchestral Music](#)

Valuable info from the Major Orchestra Librarians Association.

[More Tips for Composers](#)

Kenneth Woods on working with orchestras and conductors.