



## Case Studies and Professional Guides for Composers

Compiled by the [Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center](#), updated August 2016

### 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.

#### [Guide to Social Media for Composers](#)

Deane Ogden on how to present oneself as a composer via social media outlets.

#### [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 [MECC 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.