

## **First Destination Survey Report | Class of 2017**

A report of initial career outcomes of students who graduated from Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory at Berklee in 2017, excerpted from the 2018-19 After Berklee alumni survey.

October 2019

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Berklee College of Music</b>	<b>4</b>
Primary Occupation	4
Income	6
Additional Job in Performing Arts or Entertainment	6
Career Satisfaction	7
Additional Education After Berklee	8
Location	9
<b>Boston Conservatory at Berklee</b>	<b>10</b>
Primary Occupation	10
Income	11
Additional Job in Performing Arts or Entertainment	11
Career Satisfaction	12
Additional Education After Boston Conservatory	12
Location	13
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>14</b>
Appendix A: Employers and Job Titles, Berklee College of Music	14
Appendix B: Post-Secondary Degrees and Institutions, Berklee College of Music	16
Appendix C: Employers and Job Titles, Boston Conservatory at Berklee	17
Appendix D: Post-Secondary Degrees and Institutions, Boston Conservatory at Berklee	18

## Introduction

The report below focuses on alumni survey responses of graduates who finished their undergraduate programs at Berklee in 2017 to assess employment- and career-related outcomes for graduates who are one-year post-graduation. This report will serve as this cohort's version of the "First Destinations" survey and bridges outcomes reported between the exit survey, administered to graduating students at their time of graduation, and future alumni surveys. Bivariate analysis is used throughout the survey to show how employment situations change over time, how types of employment relates to career satisfaction, and how participation with the career center relates to career satisfaction.

---

### Number of Responses

	Completed Alumni Survey	Completed Alumni Survey and Exit Survey
Berklee College of Music	156	107
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	11	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>107</b>

Figure 1. Number of Class of 2017 respondents to the Alumni Survey and number of respondents who completed both the alumni and exit survey. Note there was one student who indicated to be both from BCM and BCB and is counted in both categories.

---

## Key Findings

- **Slightly less than half of graduates who were seeking employment upon graduation in 2017 reported that they were employed in the 2018 alumni survey. Another 50 percent reported that they were now self-employed.** Less than 10 percent of those seeking employment at graduation reported being unemployed or disabled about a year after graduation.
- **One year out from graduation, sixty-three percent of graduates felt that Berklee prepared them "well" or "very well" for their careers.** In addition, sixty-three percent of graduates also feel "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their careers.
- **Recent graduates who are employed have higher levels of career satisfaction than those who are self-employed.** Of alumni who are employed, 72 percent are currently "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their careers. Of alumni who are self-employed, 60 percent are currently "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their careers.
- **Compared to using a separate first destination survey, as was distributed last year, the data collection strategy of using alumni survey responses of recent graduates resulted in more responses.** Over 150 responses were collected this year from students who finished in 2017, while there were only 69 responses collected in the 2017 first destination survey of students who finished in 2016. A process needs to be instituted for a targeted strategy to significantly increase the response rate.

## Berklee College of Music

### Primary Occupation

#### *Comparison to the Exit Survey*

Of the 156 students who graduated in 2017 and completed the alumni survey, 107 were matched to their 2017 exit survey responses. One question within the exit survey pertained to the student's primary activity after graduation. Forty-three percent of those seeking employment at the time of the exit survey are now employed, while 50 percent of those seeking employment are now self-employed. Seven percent of those who were seeking employment at graduation continue to report being unemployed or disabled. Eighty-one percent of respondents who planned on being self-employed at graduation are still self-employed, while 15 percent are now employed. Seventy-two of those who were employed at graduation are still employed, while 28 percent are self-employed. Details about how primary occupations change are shown in figure one below.

**43% of those seeking employment after graduation are now employed, while 50 percent of those seeking employment after graduation are now self-employed.**

Exit Survey Response	n	Alumni Survey Response			
		Continuing Education	Employed	Self-Employed	Unemployed/Disability
Seeking Employment	30	0%	43%	50%	7%
Self-Employed	26	4%	15%	81%	0%
Employed	18	0%	72%	28%	0%
Internship	15	0%	40%	60%	0%
Continuing Education	8	13%	13%	75%	0%
Other	4	0%	50%	50%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>2%</b>

Figure 2. Category of employment from the exit survey and alumni survey.

#### *First Destination Results*

Ninety-five percent of alumni reported being employed or self-employed, with 55 percent self-employed and 40 percent employed. Seventy-seven percent indicated their primary occupation is in the performing arts or entertainment industry. These respondents were then asked to specify the performing arts or entertainment-related nature of their primary employment. Those who indicated working with the performing arts or entertainment industry are mostly working within performance (28 percent), production (25 percent), business (16 percent), and composition (12 percent). Of the 23 percent not working within the performing arts or entertainment industry, 25 percent stated working in the hospitality/service industry. Following behind is education (including music education and education administration) and medicine/health care (including music therapy) both at 13 percent.

**Over half of alumni are self-employed.**

Occupation	Responses	%
Self-Employed	83	55%
Employed	60	40%
Unemployed/Disability	5	3%
Continuing Education	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 3. Response rate by occupation category.

**The majority of alumni report having a primary occupation in the performing arts or entertainment industry.**

	Responses	%
Yes	117	77%
No	34	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 4. Responses to the question, "Is your current primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?"

**Of those working within the performing arts or entertainment industry, the majority work in performance.**

Category	Responses	%
Performance	33	28%
Production	29	25%
Business	18	16%
Composition (including songwriter)	14	12%
Education (including Teaching and Education Administration)	12	10%
Health and Wellness	5	4%
Other (please specify)	3	3%
Design	1	1%
Wrote in more than one category	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 5. Responses to the selected choice question, "Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your current primary occupation?"

**Of those not working within the performing arts or entertainment industry, a quarter work within the hospitality/service industry.**

Category	Responses	%
Hospitality/Service Industry	8	25%
Education (including Music Education and Education Administration)	4	13%
Medicine/Health Care (including Music Therapy)	4	13%
Business/Marketing/Sales	3	9%
Media/Entertainment	3	9%
Unemployed/Disability	3	9%
Banking/Finance/Insurance	2	6%
Architecture/Art/Design	1	3%
Engineering	1	3%
Law	1	3%
Other (please specify)	1	3%
Technology/Software	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 6. Responses to the selected choice question, "Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation?"

## Income

Almost two-thirds of respondents make more than half of their income from performing arts or entertainment-related work. Nineteen percent of respondents make five percent or less of their income from performing arts or entertainment-related work. Alumni were asked about their personal income for all of 2017, so alumni from the class of 2017 may not have had a full year to earn income, therefore this data is excluded from the report.

---

### Most alumni make 76-100% of their income from entertainment related work.

Income Percentage	Responses	%
5% or less	23	19%
Between 6% and 20%	11	9%
Between 21% and 50%	8	7%
Between 51% and 75%	13	11%
Between 76% and 100%	67	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 7. Responses to the question, "Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2017 came from performing arts or entertainment industry related work?"

---

## Additional Job in Performing Arts or Entertainment

Over half of alumni have additional jobs related to the performing arts or entertainment industry. Of those with an additional job in the performing arts or entertainment industry, the majority work in performance (35 percent), with production following behind at 18 percent and education at 17 percent.

---

### 55% of alumni have an additional job related to performing arts/ entertainment industry.

	Responses	%
Yes	82	55%
No	66	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 8. Responses to the question, "Do you have an additional job that is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?"

---

### Of those working additional jobs within the performing arts/ entertainment industry, the majority pertain to performance.

Category	Responses	%
Performance	23	35%
Production	12	18%
Education (including Music Lessons and Education Administration)	11	17%
Composition (including Songwriting)	8	12%
Business	7	11%
Other (please specify)	5	8%
Health and Wellness	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 9. Responses to the question, "Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your additional job?"

---

## Career Satisfaction

Sixty-one percent of alumni felt that Berklee prepared them “well” or “very well” for their careers. Sixty-three percent are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their careers.

### The majority of alumni feel that Berklee prepared them well for their careers.

	Responses	%
Very Poorly	5	3%
Poorly	17	12%
Neutral	35	24%
Well	60	41%
Very well	28	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 10. Responses to the question, “How well did Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career? - Preparedness for my career in general”

### Most alumni are satisfied with their careers.

	Responses	%
Very Dissatisfied	6	4%
Dissatisfied	10	7%
Neutral	38	26%
Satisfied	55	38%
Very Satisfied	36	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 11. Responses to the question, “Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career.”

## Career Satisfaction by Employment Type

Respondents who reported being employed were the most satisfied with their career (72 percent “satisfied” or “very satisfied”). This was followed by those who are self-employed (60 percent satisfaction). Those who are continuing education (zero percent satisfaction) or are unemployed (20 percent satisfaction) reported the lowest satisfaction. It is important to note that there are only a few respondents who are continuing education or unemployed.

### Majority of alumni that are employed are satisfied with their careers.

	n	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Self-Employed	80	3%	5%	33%	39%	21%	60%
Employed	53	3%	9%	16%	41%	31%	72%
Unemployed	5	40%	20%	20%	0%	20%	20%
Continuing Education	2	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>63%</b>

Figure 12. Category of employment from the alumni survey and responses to the questions, “Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career.”

### *Career Center Engagement and Satisfaction with Career*

The exit survey asked how often students used the services, resources, and or/programs of the career center. These responses were then compared to how well students are satisfied with their career one year after graduation. There was no consistent correlation between these two questions, with the results shown in the table below.

**Those who went to the career center once are most satisfied with their career, followed by those who went four or more times. This shows no consistent correlation between frequency of career center participation and satisfaction with career one year after graduation.**

	n	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Never	9	0%	11%	33%	33%	22%	56%
Once	25	0%	4%	24%	52%	22%	72%
Once a semester	28	4%	4%	32%	25%	36%	61%
Two-three times semester	21	5%	14%	24%	48%	10%	57%
Four or more times a semester	21	6%	0%	24%	47%	24%	71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>64%</b>

Figure 13. Responses to the exit survey question "During your time at Berklee, how often did you use the services, resources, and/or programs of the career center?" and the alumni survey question "Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career."

### **Additional Education After Berklee**

Eight percent of respondents earned additional degrees after attending Berklee. Of these students, ten earned a master's degree while one student earned a bachelor's degree.

**Eight percent of alumni earned an additional degree since leaving Berklee.**

Country	Responses	%
No	142	92%
Yes	12	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 14. Responses to the question, "Have you earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?"

**Of those who earned an additional degree, most earned a Master's degree.**

Degree	Responses	%
Master's	10	91%
Bachelor's	1	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 15. Responses to the question, "Please select the college degree(s) you earned after leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee." Note: one respondent did not provide details about their degree.



## Location

Seventy-six percent of alumni currently live in the United States with 24 percent living in 26 other countries. Of those who live in the United States, a quarter live in California, 23 percent in Massachusetts, and 52 percent live in 23 other states.

---

### Alumni currently live in 26 countries.

Country	Responses	%
United States	116	76%
Canada	4	3%
Mexico	3	2%
Spain	3	2%
Singapore	2	1%
21 other Countries	25	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 16. Responses by country.

---

### Alumni currently live in 25 states.

US State	Responses	%
California	29	25%
Massachusetts	27	23%
New York	11	9%
Tennessee	7	6%
New Jersey	7	6%
20 other States	35	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 17. Responses by state.

---

## Boston Conservatory at Berklee

### Primary Occupation

All eleven respondents report being employed or self-employed, with seven respondents employed and four respondents self-employed. Eight respondents reported having a primary occupation in the performing arts or entertainment industry. Those who indicated working within the performing arts or entertainment industry are working within performance (four respondents), more than one category (three respondents), and education (one respondent). Of the three respondents who listed not working within the performing arts or entertainment industry, two stated working in the business/marketing/sales and one works in media/entertainment.

#### Majority of alumni are employed.

Occupation	Responses	%
Employed	7	64%
Self-Employed	4	36%
Continuing Education	0	0%
Unemployed/Disability	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 18. Response rate by occupation category.

#### Majority of alumni report being in the performing arts or entertainment industry.

	Responses	%
Yes	8	73%
No	3	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 19. Responses to the question, "Is your current primary occupation related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?"

#### Of those working within the performing arts or entertainment industry, half work in performance.

Category	Responses	%
Performance	4	50%
Wrote in more than one category	3	38%
Education (including Teaching and Education Administration)	1	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 20. Responses to the selected choice question, "Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your current primary occupation?" No alumni described the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of their current primary occupation as business, composition (including songwriter), design, health and wellness, other (please specify), or production.

#### Of those not working within the performing arts or entertainment industry, they work in business/marketing/sales or media/entertainment.

Category	Responses	%
Business/Marketing/Sales	2	67%
Media/Entertainment	1	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 21. Responses to the selected choice question, "Which category best describes the industry of your primary occupation?" No alumni described the industry of their current primary occupation as architecture/art/design, banking/finance/insurance, education, engineering, hospitality/service, law, medicine/health care, other, technology/software, or unemployed/disability.

## Income

Eight of ten respondents make less than half of their income from entertainment related work. Alumni were asked about their personal income for all of 2017, so alumni from the class of 2017 may not have had a full year to earn income, therefore this data is excluded from the report.

---

### Most alumni make less than half of their income from performing arts or entertainment related work.

Income Percentage	Responses	%
5% or less	3	30%
Between 6% and 20%	2	20%
Between 21% and 50%	3	30%
Between 51% and 75%	1	10%
Between 76% and 100%	1	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 22. Responses to the question, "Approximately what percentage of your personal income in 2017 came from performing arts or entertainment industry related work?"

---

## Additional Job in Performing Arts or Entertainment

Less than half of alumni have additional jobs relating to the performing arts and or entertainment industry. Of those working within the performing arts or entertainment industry, two work in performance, and one work in each of composition, education, and health and wellness.

---

### Less than half of alumni have an additional job related to the performing arts or entertainment industry.

	Responses	%
No	6	55%
Yes	5	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 23. Responses to the question, "Do you have an additional job that is related to the performing arts or the entertainment industry?"

---

### Of those working additional jobs within the performing arts or entertainment industry, the majority pertain to performance.

Category	Responses	%
Performance	2	40%
Composition (including Songwriting)	1	20%
Education (including Music Lessons and Education Administration)	1	20%
Health and Wellness	1	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 24. Responses to the selected choice question, "Which category best describes the performing arts or entertainment industry related nature of your additional job?" No alumni reported working in an additional performing arts or entertainment related job in business or production.

---

## Career Satisfaction

Ten of eleven respondents felt that Boston Conservatory prepared them “well” or “very well” for their careers. Seven reported being “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their careers.

**The majority of alumni feel that Boston Conservatory prepared them well for their careers.**

	Responses	%
Very Poorly	0	0%
Poorly	1	9%
Neutral	0	0%
Well	5	45%
Very well	5	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 25. Responses to the question, “How well did Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee prepare you in the following ways for your career? - Preparedness for my career in general”

**Over half of alumni are satisfied with their careers.**

	Responses	%
Very Dissatisfied	0	0%
Dissatisfied	2	18%
Neutral	2	18%
Satisfied	4	36%
Very Satisfied	3	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 26. Responses to the question, “Please indicate how satisfied you are with your career.”

## Additional Education After Boston Conservatory

Two alumni earned additional degrees after attending Boston Conservatory. Both of these students earned a master’s degree.

**Two alumni earned an additional degree since leaving Boston Conservatory.**

Country	Responses	%
No	9	82%
Yes	2	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 27. Responses to the question, “Have you earned any additional college degree(s) since leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee?”

**Of those who earned an additional degree, both earned a Master’s degree.**

Degree	Responses	%
Master’s	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 28. Responses to the question, “Please select the college degree(s) you earned after leaving Berklee College of Music and/or Boston Conservatory at Berklee.”

## Location

All eleven respondents from the Boston Conservatory currently live in the United States. Three live in each New York and Massachusetts, and two live in California.

---

### Alumni currently live in 1 country.

Country	Responses	%
United States	11	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 29. Responses by country.

### Alumni currently live in 6 states.

US State	Responses	%
New York	3	27%
Massachusetts	3	27%
California	2	18%
Maryland	1	9%
South Carolina	1	9%
New Jersey	1	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 30. Responses by state.

---

## Conclusion

This survey provides insight into alumni's early career progression. By linking exit survey and alumni survey data, Berklee is able to have a more accurate representation of student and alumni experiences, and how students transition from students into working professionals.

## Appendix

### Appendix A: Employers and Job Titles, Berklee College of Music

Employer	Job Title
7Fusion	Restaurant General Manager
Ableton	Local Brand Manager
At Your Door Music	Singer/songwriter, piano instructor
Autonodyne	Software Engineer
Berklee	Enrollment Officer
Boston University	-
Christopher Tin	Personal Assistant
Columbia University	Student, Teacher
Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts	Lecturer
Faith Community Church	Music Director
Fame House	Digital Marketer
Films & TV	Location Assistant
Florida Family Insurance	Underwriter
Formosa Group	Dialogue Editor
Gerardo Quiroz	Musical Theater Actress
Gloria Estefan	Server
Ingrooves Music Group	Manager, Video Services Department
Jeff Danna	Film Composer (Assistant and Additional Writer)
Jerry Barnes	Audio engineer
Komische Oper Berlin	Assistant to Head of Communications and marketing
Massachusetts General Hospital	Music Therapist
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Research Assistant
MassiveMusic	Business Development Associate
Merrimack Valley Hospice	Music Therapist
Miles High Productions	Music Digital Marketer/Graphic Designer
Music Works International	Booking Agent
Northwest College	Assistant Professor of Music
Noteable Progressions Music Therapy Services	Music Therapist
Rainbow Centre	Music Therapist
Red Light Management	-
Reelworld; Hazy Bay Music	Audio Engineer/Producer
Robert Kraft (Kraftbox Entertainment)	Executive Assistant

Rogerson House	Neurologic Music Therapist
Sam Bush	Monitor engineer
Sound On Sound Studios	Audio Engineer
Sound On Sound Studios	Assistant engineer
Syn Music	Associate Music Producer
The LA Recording School	Teaching and Tutoring/ Administrative Assistant
UNH School of Law	Student
UnitedMasters	-
Universal Music Group	Sync & Marketing Assistant
University Hospitals Cleveland	Board Certified Music Therapist
University Hospitals of Cleveland	Music Therapist Board Certified
US Army	Live sound tech

## **Appendix B: Post-Secondary Degrees and Institutions, Berklee College of Music**

### *Bachelor's Degree*

School not named (1 respondent)

### *Master's Degree*

Belmont University

Boston University

Middlesex University

New York University

University of the Arts

University of Pretoria

University of Southern California

School not named (3 respondents)



### Appendix C: Employers and Job Titles, Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Employer	Job Title
Community Music Center of Boston	-
Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Assistant Choreographer

## **Appendix D: Post-Secondary Degrees and Institutions, Boston Conservatory at Berklee**

### *Master's Degree*

New York University

University of Rochester, Eastman School of Music