

5 Top Tips to get your Music Career on Track!

Hello, and thank you for requesting these Top Tips. Before you get down to reading them, you may find it useful to print them off and use it as your personal workbook – there are spaces within it to add your own goals, plans and timetables etc.

So, whilst it's printing off, clear the clutter from your head, get yourself a drink and get comfortable – the next half an hour is purely for you to get on track...here we go...

So you want to get your music career on track and maybe get a break into the Music Industry? You want a successful career in music?

You've probably guessed that talent alone won't necessarily get you the musical career that you dream of!

The following 5 top tips will definitely start you heading towards making those dreams a reality:

TIP 1 – Looking at Your Success in the Music Industry

So, are you the person described above? You have that musical talent and you want a career in the music industry?

Well, ask yourself the question 'What does success in the music industry mean to you?' It's fair to say that we all have a different definition of the word success – for some, success comes in setting up a music school in their local area, for others success is signing a record deal and having a string of number one hits in the charts.

By asking yourself 'what does success in the music industry mean to you?' you will gain a greater understanding of what it is you really want to achieve in your music career.

Write your musical career goals down – they will feel more tangible and not just something hazy in your head – be as detailed as possible and if you can, set yourself a timescale for when you want to achieve your goals by.

For instance: By 5 March 2007 you want to be signed to a successful record label, have released your first album, be on a tour of the UK and gained a number one hit with your second single.

These goals are just the brief outline - start in this way and then add the details, as you want them. You can use the space below to do this:

So, what does your music career look like?

So you now know where you want to be in your music career, but you also need to look at and know where you are now....

TIP 2 – What've you been up to?

So what have you achieved so far that will help you make that break into a music career? Use bullet points to write down all of your achievements to date – don't miss anything out – this is evidence for you to see how far you have already come in your music career!

For example:

- Written music and lyrics for 12 songs
- Grade 6 Guitar
- Regular performing/gigs
- Member of a band
- Etc

You may want to also look at what skills and experience you are currently developing to add to this list. Use the space below to create your list:

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If having tried this exercise, you are feeling that you haven't achieved much, don't despair. It's not always about the quantity of things that you have achieved, but also the quality of your achievements. You may find that under one bullet point, say of 'Regular performing', that sub-headings may be needed such as the following:

Regular Performing: I have achieved/learnt....

- How to interact with an audience
- How to stop the fear of performing live
- How to quieten the nerves before getting up on stage
- How to dance on stage whilst playing my guitar
- etc

These are all very relevant achievements and you mustn't leave them out. Also, look at things you have achieved in the other areas of your life - you will find that you can transfer some of those skills and experiences into your musical career too. Go back to your list and add them in!

So, have you listed everything you've been up to?

You have now set out your musical career goals and have a list of skills and experience of things that you have achieved and are developing. You now need to look to see how to fill the gap between the two.

Tip 3 – Planning your music career

So, what do you need to put in place, to move you from where you are now to achieving your music career goals?

You may decide on lots of different steps that you need to take.

For example:

- Get your local area buzzing about your music by playing as many gigs as you can to get yourself known.
- Widen your gig circuit by playing other towns and cities.
- Research pubs and clubs that hire live music acts.
- Create a contact list of people you know in the music industry that you can call for help and advice.
- Rehearse more regularly.
- Create a publicity pack that you can send with your demos to record labels.
- Gain a better grade in your chosen instrument.

Make a list of everything that you need to put in place to move you towards your music career goals however small or large. Then make a timetable for when you will take these steps.

Feel free to use this timetable as a template:

Music Career Plan and Timetable	Date to be achieved by	✓ when achieved

So, have you listed everything you need to help you succeed in your music career?

You now have talent and a plan for your music career, but what else might you need to succeed?

Tip 4 – What else do you need to succeed?

Okay, so what do you think underlies success? What do all successful people have in common? How do you personally need to be, to become successful?

Your answers may include: Luck, talent, ambition, drive, money – and you probably need a bit of all of these. Other aspects you may consider are: Motivation, determination and self-belief.

Motivation – is what drives you towards that career in music so much. This could be your wish to become famous and have the lifestyle and money that it can bring. Or it could be your wish to help others reach their musical potential. Whatever your music career goals are, you will have underlying motivators as to why you wish to achieve them.

Determination – is your sense of purpose to achieve your musical career goals. This is usually seen in terms of your strength or conviction to achieve your goals.

Self-Belief – is your confidence in yourself and your abilities. Beliefs about yourself can be both positive and negative. Positive beliefs are more likely to get you what you want in your music career rather than those negative ones – for example: “I know I am musically talented”. “I am making a successful career in the music industry”. “My music is okay, but I don’t think I’ve got what it takes to make it in the music industry”. Which statement do you think is the most helpful to get you what you want?

So now here are 3 questions for you to score...

Q: How motivated are you to succeed in your music career?

Q: How determined are you to achieve your music career goals?

Q: How much self-belief do you have, that you will succeed in your music career?

On a scale of 1 to 10 where 10 is high and 1 is poor, score yourself, against the above three questions.

Are you scoring high in all three? If yes, then great you’re half way there already! If not, what will it take for you to increase your score to a full 10?

Ask yourself what’s stopping you from feeling fully motivated, determined or full of self-belief?

So, do you have everything you need to succeed?

Great, you know what you want to achieve in your music career, you know where you are now and you know what you need to do to get you to achieve your goals. What now....?

Tip 5 – Take Action!

So, was this just a paper exercise? Not if you've scored high on your levels of determination, motivation and self-belief! So what are you waiting for? Get started – TAKE ACTION!

Even if it's a little step at a time, it all adds up to getting you closer to achieving your music career goals – so are you going to carry on dreaming or is taking action more your style?

Keep your music career goals visible – stick them up in a prominent position to remind you of where you are heading. Keep track of where you are in your timetable and reward yourself for all the successes you have in achieving those little goals. Constantly check your levels of motivation, determination and self-belief.

Most of all ENJOY doing it!

I'm sure that you have found these Top Tips useful. If you are wanting a career in the music industry – whether you are a musician or not, and are struggling to focus on what you are wanting to achieve; unsure how to achieve your music career goals or are lacking in motivation or self belief, I'm sure I can help you.

Give me a call today on (01246) 231 249 to schedule your complimentary consultation where I can discuss how I can help you in your specific situation.

If you have been given these Top Tips from a mate and want your own free copy – please feel free to contact me or go to my website – there are other free materials available...

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I work with musicians and music industry personnel, who struggle with their constantly demanding lifestyles.

I help you to focus on your music career goals and support you to make your career happen.

