

Music Teacher

Teach piano, guitar, voice or strings one student at a time. Most music teachers work for themselves.

TYPICAL PAY

\$45,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$25k to \$70k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Home studios, music schools,
community centres, online**

How you get there

- 1 Learn your instrument properly** Childhood onward
 Years of lessons and daily practice, usually working up through graded conservatory exams.
- 2 High school** Grades 9 to 12
 Music and theory courses, plus any band, choir or ensemble you can join.
- 3 Pick a credential, or skip it** 0 to 4 years
 A performance diploma such as the ARCT (Associate of the Royal Conservatory), a university music degree, or neither. Private teaching requires none of them.
- 4 Learn to teach**
 Pedagogy courses teach you how beginners actually learn, what order to introduce skills, and how to keep a 7 year old going.
- 5 Build a studio** 2 to 4 years
 First students through family, your old teacher, local schools and community boards. Word of mouth does the rest.

Pros and cons

- + You set your own rates, hours and student list
- + You can start teaching young, while still studying
- + Low startup cost if you already own the instrument
- No pension, no benefits, no paid sick days
- Income drops every time a student quits or summer arrives
- You work evenings and Saturdays, when friends are free

Good to know

Canada exports a grading system

The Royal Conservatory of Music runs a graded exam program used across Canada and the United States, from first levels up to the ARCT (Associate of the Royal Conservatory) diploma. Those exam levels ar...

Over a thousand registered teachers in one province

The Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association alone has more than 1,000 members, and it is a volunteer-run organization. Most are running small studios out of their own homes.

Optional boosts

Students who pass exams well. A second instrument. Teaching theory. Online lessons.

Where these numbers come from

Long and McQuade: music lessons and average lesson rates
 Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association: membership requirements
 The Royal Conservatory of Music

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/music-teacher>



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