

The Roles of Composer, Producer, Arranger and Engineer

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The Role of a Composer

Put simply, the Composer writes the music. He or she is directed by the Music Producer and writes the melodies and song structure to be scored by the Arranger. The Composer may also direct the ensemble performing the score. Composers are expected to be expert musicians as the role is primarily creative.

The Role of a Music Producer

A combination of technical expertise and creative vision is expected of the Music Producer, who fulfils a variety of roles depending on the particular project. On large projects, the Music Producer oversees the process, provides creative direction and is the main liaison between the creative team (eg: the art director) and the Composer, Arranger and Engineer. As projects shrink, the Music Producer is expected to take on the roles of Engineer, Arranger and Composer as required. On the smallest projects the Producer will take the production from start to finish, minimizing costs for the creative team. It is therefore expected that the Music Producer be highly skilled at both the musical and technical aspects of the production process.

The Role of an Arranger

The Arranger takes the work of the composer and arranges it into score form for the ensemble to play. In general, only large productions require a separate Arranger, the role usually filled by the Composer or the Music Producer. The Arranger needs to have high technical skills with relation to timbres and blending.

The Role of an Audio Engineer

The Audio Engineer has the job of recording the ensemble. The Audio Engineer also performs mixing and mastering, otherwise called post-production. He or she is directed by the Music Producer and must have exceptional technical skills. It is common for larger projects to employ multiple Audio Engineers.