

THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG MUSICIANS: FIRST RESULTS OF THE ALUMNI-PROJECT

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Background

The transition from music academy to job market is a critical situation in the career of professional musicians. Every-day observations, statistical material and empirical studies show that the job market for musicians has been subject to a structural change during the last few years, consisting on the one hand particularly of a reduction of (tenure) positions in orchestras, whereas on the other hand the number of applicants is rising. At the same time it can be seen that the gainful employment of many musicians is based not only on one single position but on a number of different jobs that may not be related to music either.

Aims

The present study (Alumni-Project) deals with the following questions: How do the musical careers of professional singers and instrumentalists develop after their education at the music academies? To what extent are the graduates able to find jobs in the music job market? How well do the demands of professional life match the qualifications acquired at the music academies? What consequences can be derived from our results to improve the education of musicians?

Method

A questionnaire has been administered to a total of 2080 graduates from 7 music academies all over Germany. Until due date November 25, 2002, 648 questionnaires have been returned.

Results and Conclusions

Presently, the data have not yet been evaluated. We will be able to report results and conclusions in the coming months.