Music Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

Major: Music (B.A.), Music Education, Teacher Licensure (B.S.)

General Program/Fields of Emphasis: General B.A Program, Piano Performance and Pedagogy, Instrumental Performance, Vocal Performance

Minor: Music

Department Website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/music/home.html

Major Highlights: The primary mission of the Department of Music is to prepare students for professional careers in music. The faculty recognizes the need for excellence within a broad liberal education, so the department places equal emphasis on music education, performance, and theoretical/historical study in its degree offerings. The department, an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music, also maintains a cultural leadership and development role locally and regionally, while striving to achieve a national and international profile.

The specific objectives of the Department of Music are:

1. To provide students interested in teaching careers with the professional knowledge and skills necessary for success in the field;
2. To provide students with the necessary background in applied music (private instruction in voice/instrument), music theory, music history and literature, keyboard skills and sight-reading, and music technology to become full participants in music professions;
3. To provide all students of the university with opportunities to enrich themselves through participation in music department ensembles and through attendance at concerts, recitals, and lectures;
4. To develop the creative potential of the region through workshops, performances, and a summer music camp.

Employment Areas:
The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that musicians, singers, and related workers held about 240,000 jobs in 2008, of which 186,400 were held by musicians and singers; 53,600 were music directors and composers. Around 43 percent worked part time; 50 percent were self-employed. Many found jobs in cities in which entertainment and recording activities are concentrated, such as New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, and Nashville. Musicians, singers, and related workers are employed in a variety of settings. Of those who earn a wage or salary, 33 percent were employed by religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, and similar organizations and 12 percent by performing arts companies, such as professional orchestras, small chamber music groups, opera companies, musical theater companies, and ballet troupes. Musicians and singers also perform in nightclubs and restaurants and for weddings and other events. The U.S. Armed Forces also offer careers in their bands and smaller musical groups. Teaching is a career area that many music majors pursue.

Projected Demand for Music Majors in Minnesota:
MNCareers reports that the outlook for musicians and singers is good. Openings tend to be very competitive. Most are short-term and there are more openings with religious organizations. There are currently 630 musicians and singers employed in Minnesota.

Projected Demand for Music Majors Nationwide:
The DISCOVER guidance system reports that the nationwide demand for musicians (instrumental) has moderate growth with a 1.0% expected growth rate per year, and the average starting salary was $37,000 annually in 2009. For a teacher (art, music, drama, speech), this field is expected to grow rapidly with a 2.3% expected growth rate per year. The average starting salary offered was $37,500 annually in 2009.
Placement Information for Music Graduates:
There are many career opportunities for Bemidji State University music graduates. Of the Bemidji State University 2008-2009 music (B.A.) graduates, 25% reported that they were continuing their education. Of the Bemidji State University 2008-2009 music (B.S.) graduates, 100% reported obtaining related employment within one year of graduation. These figures do not include students who were not seeking employment, unavailable, or had unknown status.

A Partial List of Employers Who Have Hired BSU Music Graduates:

Alexandria School District Substitute Teacher Alexandria, MN
Badger School K-12 Vocal Music Teacher Badger, MN
Becker School District Vocal Music Teacher Becker, MN
Butterfield-Odin School District Band Director Butterfield, MN
Cass Lake High School Music Teacher Cass Lake, MN
Darby Public Schools Band/Choir Director Darby, MT
Department of Defense Dependent Schools Substitute Teacher Heidelberg, Germany
Fraser School Assistant Teacher Minneapolis, MN
Headwaters School of Music & Arts Piano Teacher Bemidji, MN
High Peaks Elementary School Music Specialist Boulder, CO
Hunter's Creek Middle School Vocal Music Educator Orlando, FL
ISD 31 High School Orchestra Teacher Bemidji, MN
ISD 622 Long-Term Substitute Vocal Music Teacher Oakdale, MN
Littlefork-Big Falls School District K-12 Music Teacher Littlefork, MN
Music Outlet Music Teacher Bemidji, MN
New Jersey Youth Symphony Assistant to Artistic Director New Providence, NJ
Orono Middle School Choir Director/General Music Teacher Long Lake, MN
Paul Bunyan Playhouse Stage Manager Bemidji, MN
Pine River-Backus Schools Music Teacher Pine River, MN
Popplers Music, Inc. Band and Orchestra Instrument Sales Grand Forks, ND
Prince Georges County School Band Director Upper Marlboro, MD
Princeton School District Music Teacher Grades 3-5 Princeton, MN
Red Lake Elementary School Music Teacher Red Lake, MN
Sebeka School District Music Teacher Sebeka, MN
So. Shore School District 143 Music Teacher K-12 So. Shore, SD
St. Paul School District #625 Elementary Music Specialist St. Paul, MN
Staples Motley School District Music Teacher Staples, MN
TrekNorth High School Performing Arts Director Bemidji, MN
Washington Middle School Music/Choir Teacher Brainerd, MN
Cartwright School District Sixth Grade Band/Strings Teacher Phoenix, AZ
Cartwright School District Elementary Music Teacher Phoenix, AZ
Long Prairie-Grey Eagle School District Music Teacher Long Prairie, MN
Menahga School District Music Teacher Menahga, MN

Colleges and Universities Where BSU Music Graduates Have Gone to Continue Their Education:

Justice Institute of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
Longy School of Music, Cambridge, MA
University of South-Western Louisiana, Lafayette, LA
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
Wichita State University, Wichita, KS
Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.
Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.
Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:
Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2006-2008. Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2009)
DISCOVER. The American Testing Program, Educational Technology Center, Hunt Valley, MD (2009)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in 102 Sanford Hall or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.