

Music Performance Résumé Guide

Your résumé is a tool for securing auditions, interviews, fellowships, festivals, grants, competitions, and graduate programs. It should highlight your most relevant qualifications, experiences, and skills for the specific role you're applying for.

On average, employers look at résumés for only 6-7 seconds
& Applicant Tracking Systems review them even quicker!

This means it is crucial to make yours clear and impactful to quickly highlight your qualifications and stand out from other candidates!

*to template or
not to
template?*

Formatting:

- Use simple, easy-to-read font
- Avoid using more than two fonts
- Do NOT go smaller than 10pt font
- Use clear headings, sections, and bullet points to enhance the scannability of your résumé
- Avoid too much or too little blank space
 - You don't want your résumé to look too empty or visually cluttered
- Be consistent with your formatting

PROS:

- Can save time and effort initially
- Helps to keep things visually consistent

CONS:

- Difficult to modify
- You risk blending in with other applicants as many templates are overused
- Some ATS will actually reject templates

General Rules for Music Résumés:

- Create separate résumés for non-performance roles
 - e.g. for teaching and/or arts administration
- Do NOT include high school experience after your sophomore year of college
 - Unless you attended a specialized high school relevant to your music career
- Tailor the order of performance experience sections to the role you hope to land
 - If you're applying to an orchestral position, list your orchestra experience first
- Within the various sections, list your experience in reverse chronological order
 - i.e. your most recent experience at the top
- Typically performance résumés should be one page
 - Unless you are a mid-career professional with extensive experience and/or are seeking an academic position
- The sections of your résumé should include: a header (your name, instrument, contact info, general location, LinkedIn URL and/or online portfolio), your education, and performance experience
 - performance can be broken down into a variety of categories and some may be exclusive to the type of music you do (e.g. chamber music, solo recitals, choral experience, musical theatre, festivals, etc.)
- You can also consider including sections for your Honors/Awards, Training, Principal Teachers, Coaches, Conductors, and/or Masterclasses



YOUR NAME

your instrument (e.g. Vocalist or Cellist)

your email | your phone number | your location | your LinkedIn URL and/or online portfolio

EDUCATION

Bachelor of (your degree), Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Ithaca, NY
Concentration or Minor:
GPA Optional
anticipated May 2026

ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE

Name of Orchestra	Position	Location	Dates
Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra	Concertmaster	Ithaca, NY	Sept. 2024-present
Cayuga Chamber Orchestra	Second Violin	Ithaca, NY	Dec. 2024-Feb. 2025

CHAMBER MUSIC EXPERIENCE

Name of Ensemble	Position	Location	Dates
Ithaca College Contemporary Ensemble	Concertmaster	Ithaca, NY	Sept. 2024-present
Ithaca College Trombone Troupe	First Trombone	Ithaca, NY	Sept. 2023-May 2024

SOLO PERFORMANCES

Name of Ensemble	Location	Dates
Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra	Ithaca, NY	March 2025
Ithaca College Sinfonietta	Ithaca, NY	Dec. 2024

SOLO RECITALS

Name of Recital	Location	Dates
Junior Recital	Ithaca, NY	April 2025

FESTIVALS

Name of Festival	Location	Dates
Aspen Music Festival	Aspen, CO.	Summer 2025
Bowdoin International Music Festival	Brunswick, ME	Summer 2024

TRAINING Can change the subheadings in this section depending on your experience

Teachers

Your Main Applied Teacher's Name
Your Main Applied Teacher's Name
Your Main Applied Teacher's Name

Masterclasses

Name of Masterclass Teacher
Name of Masterclass Teacher
Name of Masterclass Teacher

Add sections to your résumé that highlight your skills and experience, aligning with your career goals. Consider including sections like 'Awards & Honors,' 'Professional Organizations' (e.g., American Federation of Musicians), or additional instruments you play. Tailor your résumé for each opportunity to effectively showcase your strengths.

