Center for Music Entrepreneurship

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Doctoral Fellows complete the team.

Focused on turning ideas into action, the Center for Music Entrepreneurship (CME) fosters the vision, skills, and mindset musicians need to build rewarding and sustainable careers. By offering “next step” mentoring and targeted services, the CME helps students and alumni create innovative career paths, income streams, and business models that are transforming the profession.

Coursework

Practical Foundations: Entrepreneurial Leadership Skills
Focusing on creativity, innovation, values, and impact, this core course explores the basics of establishing a professional career. The class covers marketing, communication, financing, community engagement, and project management—for both new and traditional career paths.

Advanced Practicum in Music Entrepreneurship
Students plan and launch their own ventures in a supportive “think tank” environment. Creating business plans, budgets, and action steps, students work to achieve their desired goals. Past projects include launching a new festival, developing a production company, and designing an innovative portable performance structure that reimagines the concert experience.

Orchestral Entrepreneurship
Designed for students in the Orchestral Performance Program, this course focuses on investigating and devising creative solutions to today’s orchestral challenges, from audience development and community engagement, to finances, governance, and programming.

Internships
Students gain practical “real world” experience through administrative internships with top NYC organizations.

Setting the Stage Series
Inspiring entrepreneurial speakers share their expertise and advice in hands-on interactive workshops programmed throughout the year. Popular topics have included social media and networking skills, niche creation, audience development, and creative funding strategies.

Entrepreneurial Coaching & Career Advising
The CME staff provides professional career coaching to students and alumni. In individual sessions, musicians can explore their career plans and projects, plus receive feedback on self-promotion, fundraising, grants and more. Additional mentoring is available through MSM’s extensive network of accomplished alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

Referral Services
Each year, the CME receives hundreds of requests from the general public for performers and private teachers. The CME connects MSM students and alumni with these paid opportunities: performing at special events, corporate functions, and religious services, and teaching/coaching in the community. In addition, the CME provides resources for the expanding range of music industry opportunities.

Jazz composer Nikolas Schriefer is pioneering StageLink, a digital tour-booking platform that aggregates information on artists, venues, and fan interest, to make booking concerts more adaptable, efficient, and profitable.

Pianist Eunbi Kim’s Murakami Music Project is producing multidisciplinary performances on the writings of novelist Haruki Murakami.

Jazz trombonist, vocalist, and composer Natalie Cressman released her second album, Turn the Sea, and booked a two-week West Coast tour with her band.

Hornist Kyra Sims founded the Harlem Sound Project to produce benefit concerts that support children’s music lessons.

Referral Services
Founded by MSM students, the conductorless chamber orchestra Shattered Glass recently debuted at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall.

Recently Launched Student Projects