

Keys to musical success

JOB PROFILE

Name: Peter Millrose
Age: 37
Position: Music composer
Check out: www.millrosemusic.com

What do you do?

There are two main ways that I make money. One is I own a recording studio on the Upper West Side, in a townhouse called Millrose Music. Eighty percent of my clients are Broadway musical theater. And then the other source of income is original music for television and film, or industrial use. It might be music for a documentary, for a feature, or for a television show.

Who are some of your clients?

As far as original music, I did all the music for the original "Ben Stiller Show," which was on MTV. Also on HBO, Court TV, "Saturday Night Live."

Do you have a lot of time to finish jobs?

I usually have time. It's not like as crazy as the jingle business, where they say there's a spot for Coke, and we need it

tomorrow. I'd rather have half as much money and live longer.



How did you get into producing and composing music?

My father was a professional songwriter for 13 years in the 60s and early 70s. I'm a native Upper West Sider. I grew up falling asleep in the engineer's chair.

What kind of training do you recommend for this line of work?

I'd recommend different things. Most people who are composers have an alternate source of income. It's very

rare if you find anyone in New York City whose primary income is writing music. I would say overall, it's smart to get some technical training on your instrument of choice, and in theory. At least a couple of years.

What kind of personality traits make a successful composer?

I would say some of the most important traits are self-confidence and perseverance. There are so many people who are only mildly talented, but they're so damn persistent and they persevere until doors open for them.

Do you have any advice for aspiring composers?

Become the best networker you could possibly be. Write down the name, phone number, contact of every single person that you meet. Carry a dictaphone and carry that information in the dictaphone, and most importantly, who you met them through. And store them in a database. And just remember, it's all about your clients, not just about you. You're a musical tailor.

(Mina Hochberg)