

Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence

This intelligence has to do with rhythm, music, and hearing. Those who have a high level of musical-rhythmic intelligence display greater sensitivity to sounds, rhythms, tones, timbre, and music. They normally have good pitch and may even have absolute pitch. They are often able to sing and play musical instruments well, and some enjoy composing music. Since there is a strong aural component to this intelligence, those with good musical-rhythmic intelligence may learn best via auditory modes (lectures, audiobooks, CDs, etc.). In addition, they often use songs or musical pieces to learn and memorize information. They enjoy having music playing in the background of whatever they are doing.

You probably have a gift for Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence if you:

- Have good rhythm
- Can easily memorize songs & musical pieces
- Can tell when a note is off-key
- Are often singing, whistling, or humming
- Love listening to music at every opportunity
- Have a "good ear" for different sounds, pitches, tones, rhythms and compositions
- Often have a song running in your head
- Have an unquenchable passion for music
- Can compose, sing and/or play instruments
- Can recite songs from heart
- Can reproduce sounds, tunes and songs
- Often use rhythm and music as a way to memorize things

Sample Musical-Rhythmic Leisure Activities

- Collecting music
- Composing music
- Going to concerts
- Listening to music
- Participating in a choir
- Participating in karaoke or sing-alongs
- Playing "Name That Tune"
- Playing a musical instrument
- Playing in a band
- Singing
- Taking music lessons
- Teaching music

A few people who are famous for their Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence

- Aaron Copland
- Antonin Dvorak
- Antonio Vivaldi
- Arnold Schoenberg
- Carl Maria von Weber
- Charles Ives
- Claude Debussy
- Felix Mendelssohn
- Franz Joseph Liszt
- Franz Schubert
- Frédéric Chopin
- George Fredric Handel
- George Gershwin
- Giuseppe Verdi
- Gustav Mahler
- Hildegard von Bingen
- Irving Berlin
- Jan Sibelius
- Johann Sebastian Bach
- Johannes Brahms
- Joseph Haydn
- Ludwig van Beethoven
- Maurice Ravel
- Mikhail Glinka
- Peter Tchaikovsky
- Richard Strauss
- Richard Wagner
- Scott Joplin
- Sergei Rachmaninoff
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

There are numerous applications of the multiple intelligences system. The most popular application of multiple intelligences is in education, to nurture all the different kinds of intelligence in children. There are many wonderful books written about teaching and learning through the multiple intelligences so if that is an interest of yours I will refer you to my [Multiple Intelligences References](#) section for that information. My interest lies in using multiple intelligences for vocational guidance and relationship compatibility so that is what I will focus on here in this description.

People are naturally drawn to careers that make use of their giftedness. It is obvious that people like to do what they enjoy and are good at. What follows are some careers that make use of the Musical-Rhythmic intelligence as well as Musical-Rhythmic intelligence combined with other intelligences.

Careers that Especially Utilize Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence

- Any occupation that involves music or a good sense of rhythm and timing
- Band leader/director
- Choral director
- Composer/songwriter
- Instrumentalist
- Music archivist
- Music conductor
- Music critic
- Music director
- Music librarian
- Music recording engineer
- Music sound technician
- Music teacher
- Music therapist
- Musical copyist
- Musical instrument maker
- Musical instrument repairer/tuner
- Musical instrument salesperson
- Musician
- Orchestrator/arranger
- Performer (song and dance)
- Pianist
- Piano tuner
- Radio disc jockey
- Rerecording mixer
- Sound effects manager
- Sound engineering technician
- Sound mixer
- Vocalist/singer

Sample Job Skills

- Analyzing music
- Arranging music
- Choreographing
- Composing
- Conducting
- Copying music
- Criticizing musical styles/pieces
- Distinguishing tone, pitch, timbre, etc.
- Drumming
- Humming
- Improvising
- Keeping rhythm
- Listening
- Orchestrating
- Playing (an instrument)
- Reciting
- Recording
- Remembering songs/tunes/melodies
- Scoring music
- Singing
- Strumming
- Tapping to keep a beat
- Transcribing
- Tuning
- Vocal coaching
- Whistling

Sample Careers that Utilize Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence with Other Intelligences

Musical-Rhythmic and Verbal-Linguistic

- Composer/songwriter
- Music librarian
- Music teacher/instructor
- Singer/music composer (writes own songs)

Musical-Rhythmic and Logical-Mathematical

- Acoustics physicist
- Music archivist
- Music critic

Musical-Rhythmic and Visual-Spatial

- Choreographer

Musical-Rhythmic and Bodily-Kinesthetic

- Choreographer
- Dancer
- Drummer (dexterity, hand-eye coordination)
- Figure skater
- Musical instrument maker

- Musical instrument repairer/tuner
- Performer (song and dance)
- Pianist (dexterity, hand-eye coordination)
- Tap dancer

Musical-Rhythmic and Interpersonal

- Band leader/director
- Choral director
- Music conductor
- Music director
- Musical instrument salesperson
- Radio disc jockey
- Sound effects manager

Musical-Rhythmic and Intrapersonal

- Composer/songwriter
- Music therapist
- Musician

Musical-Rhythmic and Naturalist

- A naturalist who uses music to tame/relax animals
- Bioacoustic researcher and ecologist (such as [David Dunn](#) of Santa Fe, NM)
- Composer of themes about nature
- Singer who specializes in singing lyrics about nature

Sample Musical-Rhythmic Majors in School

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Band | • Music composition and arranging | • Orchestra |
| • Choir/chorus | • Music theory and history | • Piano |
| • Church music | • Music therapy | • Recording arts technology |
| • Conducting | • Musical theater | • Sound engineering |
| • Jazz studies | • Opera | • Voice |
| • Music | | |