

Music Stars Go to Grammy Camp

This story comes from VOA Special English, Voice of America's daily news and information service for English learners. Read the story and then do the activities in the worksheet at the end.

Getting a job in the music business is not easy. But getting advice from people who have already succeeded could help. That is the hope of more than one hundred young musicians who attended a camp in Los Angeles this past summer. Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers told the wannabe stars about the importance of social media.

NICK JONAS: "Social media was incredibly important for my brothers and I at the beginning of our career and still is today. With Twitter and YouTube and Facebook, there are so many instant ways to connect with your fans."

Other music professionals also shared their knowledge at the week-long camp. The event is part of "Grammy in the Schools," a project from the organizers of the music industry's Grammy Awards.

The summer camp gives students a chance to improve their music industry skills. Ben LoPiccolo worked on his skills as a music reporter.

BEN LOPICCOLO: "I found that I really enjoyed writing and telling people about music that I like to kind of expand their taste."

These teenagers hope to be part of an industry that is going through big changes. Kristen Madsen at the Grammy Foundation points to the influence of social networking on sites like Facebook and Twitter.

KRISTEN MADSEN: "I would say that that's probably the biggest theme that you can see, is watching the artists and the professionals come through and talk about, there are new ways and new roadmaps for kids to succeed in the music industry, and they have a lot more access to doing it themselves."

Thirteen-year-old Greyson Chance was preparing to release his first album. He says his career began with a music video on YouTube.

Camper Giovanni Quattrochi was hoping for a career as a music producer. He likes the way music is changing.

GIOVANNI QUATTROCHI: "Especially with hip-hop, there's a lot of sampling of different genres of music. And I think I'm excited to see where music is going to go."

Young songwriter Elise Go says music is also becoming more international.

ELISE GO: "I'm also pretty excited. I think it's very cool, like I'm really interested in Korean and Asian-genre music. So it's like Korean and Chinese pop music, and they're like fusing American influences into their music, and I feel that's very cool to hear, like a pop song you think you'd hear on the radio in America, in like another language."

Brian London plays keyboard for Lady Gaga and other artists. He told the students that succeeding in music takes more than just having skills.

BRIAN LONDON: "Being a great player -- everybody's a great player. So a lot of artists, management labels and music directors look at more than just being a great player in order to be hired for a gig."

The musicians say most of all it takes a love of music to succeed in this exciting and ever changing business.

Now do the worksheet ...

Level: beginner - intermediate

Time: 20 -30 minutes

This worksheet will help you learn new vocabulary about the music industry. You will answer questions about a music camp, and write a short paragraph describing a music camp.

1. Match the words on the left with the words on the right to make four phrases. Write the phrase on the line. The answers are in the article.

a. get	1. someone	_____
b. attend	2. knowledge	_____
c. tell	3. advice	_____
d. share	4. camp	_____

2. All of the following phrases but ONE are in the article. Which *music* phrase below is NOT correct?
 - music industry
 - music incredibly
 - music producer
 - music director

3. Look again at the title of the section: *Music Stars Share Their Trade with Kids at Grammy Camp*. What does *trade* mean here?
 - a kind of business or industry
 - exchanging one thing for another

4. Listen again to the interview. Who says that social media was important for him and his brothers?
 - Brian London
 - Giovanni Quattrochi
 - Nick Jonas
 - Ben LoPiccolo

5. Listen again to the interview. Who says that they really enjoyed writing and telling people about music?
 - Brian London
 - Elise Go
 - Nick Jonas
 - Ben LoPiccolo

6. Listen again to the interview. Who is really interested in Korean and Asian-genre music?
[] Brian London
[] Elise Go
[] Nick Jonas
[] Ben LoPiccolo

7. How did Greyson Chance's career begin?

How old is Greyson? _____

8. What does Brian London do?

9. Read the sentence below. Is it *true* or *false*? If it is false, correct the sentence.

Brian London thinks that there are a lot of great players.

10. What is the last thing that Barbara Klein says? Complete the following sentence.

The musicians say most of all it takes a _____ of music to succeed in this exciting and ever changing business.

OVER TO YOU

Imagine that you went to a summer music camp! What was it like? What did you do?

Describe your experience below in 5-8 sentences.

ANSWER KEY

1. get advice, attend camp, tell someone, share knowledge
2. music incredibly
3. a kind of business or industry
4. Nick Jonas
5. Ben LoPiccolo
6. Elise Go
7. His career began with a music video on YouTube. He is 13 years old.
8. Brian London plays keyboard for Lady Gaga and other artists.
9. true
10. love