

FROM ON-CAMPUS SHOWS, recording sessions and master classes to off-campus gigs, internships, community outreach, and travel, music schools are giving students more and more ways to apply what they learn in class to the “real world.”

# COLLEGE GOES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students from Catawba College finish off their semester with a performance at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York City.



Catawba College  
Salisbury, N.C.

## WELCOME TO THE FIFTH EDITION

of In Tune's Best Music Schools annual special report. As always, the purpose of this story is to help students like you understand the many options available for a good music education after high school. And as we have always maintained, the best music school is the one that's best for you.

Some students find the college search to be the most exciting part of high school. Others dread the pressure of making a decision. Not only don't you know what it will feel like to go to a particular school (and for some, to leave home for the first time), you're probably not exactly sure what you'll want to do after you graduate. What if you change your mind about your intended direction? There are too many variables, too many moving parts to make such a big decision. Well the truth is, for many, picking a college—let alone a major—is an educated guess. Our goal is to help you make it a *well-educated* guess. Whether college is years away or just around the corner, it's never too early to start your research—and never too late to learn how to get more out of any school you attend.

Each year, we try to offer the big picture while also focusing on one important part of a college education as it relates to music. This time around, we're going to look at ways students can get “real world” experience—that is, a sense of what life might be like after college—through programs such as internships, on- or off-campus jobs, semesters abroad and at satellite campuses on U.S. soil, independent study, student-led clubs, and extracurricular activities like playing in a band, working at the campus radio station, booking and promoting shows, teaching private lessons, and more.

For many, the ability to apply their studies in the field not only reinforces what they learn in the classroom; it also can help them decide whether they're in the right major.

“Education is becoming increasingly aware of the need to include ‘real-world’ experience,

