

So, What Can I Do with a Degree in Music History and Cultures?

With a degree in Music History and Cultures you can enter many different career paths. Some choose to pursue advanced studies (a M.A. or Ph.D) in musicology, ethnomusicology, and other musical fields, and ultimately teach and do research in universities and colleges. Others might work for institutions as diverse as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum or [National Public Radio](#), leading education programs or other initiatives. There are music historians who have been awarded Grammys for their CD liner notes and others who have served as “forensic musicologists,” providing expert testimony in legal disputes of copyright infringement. The creator of Pandora Radio’s innovative “music genome project” has a degree in musicology.

You will acquire a number of different skills through the study of music history and cultures. Not only do you develop an appreciation for the repertoires and histories of different musical cultures, but you learn *how* to listen—closely and analytically—to various musical styles and traditions. The degree in Music History and Cultures teaches you how to write and communicate about music professionally by engaging with a variety of research methodologies, fostering critical thinking.

Because of the diversity of experiences that encompass the Music History and Cultures degree, there are many potential careers:

Music Industry

- Music supervision for film, television, video games and advertising
- Data content for music sites such as [Pandora Internet Radio](#)
- Concert Production (lighting, sound design, tech)
- A & R, talent scouting for music publishers and labels
- Working with industry associations such as the Grammys
- Working for organizations such as [ASCAP](#), BMI, and [SESAC](#) in the fields of publishing and copyright

Arts Management and Concert Promotion

- Book concerts
- Work in the programming or education department of an arts organization
- Create your own booking agency or artist management agency
- Manage a theater, club or performing arts center
- Manage music museums such as the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#), [Grammy Museum](#), or the [EMP Museum](#)

Music Education

- Pursue advanced degrees, as well as a K-12 teaching license in music
- Post-secondary education at the college or university level (requires master's and doctoral degrees)
- Work with education and/or programming departments of a wide variety of public and private music institutions such as the [Brooklyn Academy of Music](#) or [Jazz](#) at Lincoln Center

Journalism/Public Relations/Criticism

- Writing for digital media, magazines, newspapers
- Writing liner notes for anthologies, box sets, and reissues
- Handling public relations and advertising for the music business
- Writing program notes for performing arts organizations

Libraries/Archives

- Work as a music librarian at a variety of levels, ranging from public libraries to private research institutions
- Become an archivist, working with such collections as the Smithsonian Institution or Syracuse University's [Belfer Audio Archive](#)

Museums

- Work as a curator in museums with collections ranging from musical instruments to pop culture artifacts
- Work in audio preservation to maintain audio, print and other historical objects
- Curate exhibits and programming for heritage museums such as the [Delta Blues Museum](#) in Clarksdale, MS and the [American Jazz Museum](#) in Kansas City, MO

Publishing

- Become an acquisitions editor for music-related presses
- Work with presses in copyediting, indexing, or marketing and sales