University of Southern California

Thornton School of Music

Doctor of Philosophy in Music, Historical Musicology Emphasis

Program Learning Objectives

Music, Historical Musicology Emphasis (Ph.D.)

The PhD degree in historical musicology prepares students for careers in musical research, writing, and university teaching. Through seminars and lectures, musicology students explore the breadth of music ranging from topics in Western art music, popular music, performance practices, criticism, jazz and film, theory and musical analysis, and music of the world. Students may take courses in the arts and letters and participate in performance ensembles at Thornton, including the renowned early music ensemble, the USC Thornton Baroque Sinfonia. Upon completion of the Doctor of Philosophy in Musicology program, students will

i. accrue knowledge and understanding of the history and cultural valences of music across time and space;

j. specialize in an area of musical history and/or conduct field study that contributes original research to the candidate’s sub-discipline;

k. acquire teaching skills through teaching assistantships and course preparation alongside experienced music educators;

l. have the opportunity to present papers national and international conferences;

m. program a musicology forum that attracts top scholars in the field and organize chapter and local meetings of national musicological societies;

n. gain the skills to work as a leader and in collaboration in areas of musical interpretation and performance, such as universities and colleges, arts institutions, libraries, and administration;

o. create awareness of the societal impact of music and the ethical responsibility of a professional musician;

p. have the practical, technical and historical knowledge to communicate their values and understanding of music to the world at large