

Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University

Professorship in Historical Musicology

1. General

The Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University has a vacancy for a full professor in Historical Musicology (1.0 FTE). This chair is part of the department of Media and Culture Studies (MCW). In addition to musicology, MCW conducts research and offers teaching (BA and MA) in media & performance studies and gender & postcolonial studies and is active in various forms of public engagement. The Department considers culture as a dynamic combination of artistic, creative, and everyday activities through which humans express their identities and shape societal processes, structures, and institutions.

The Faculty of Humanities is currently looking for a historical musicologist with a strong, recognized international reputation, whose outstanding qualifications in research and teaching are reflected in an interdisciplinary vision of the field. An additional area of proficiency complimenting proven expertise in historical musicology is an asset. The chair can articulate an inspired ambition in line with the strategic plans as determined by the department, the Faculty of Humanities, and the university at large. The chair will assume a pro-active, leading role in teaching and research, supporting innovations in line with current national and international developments in musicology. The chair will contribute extensively through teaching and research to the dissemination and visibility of historical musicology in contemporary society. The chair is strongly encouraged to play a central role in enhancing the contacts of the musicology programme with conservatoires and other relevant music institutions in the Netherlands and abroad.

Research activities associated with the chair are incorporated in the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICON). Teaching activities are within the undergraduate programme in Musicology, as well as in the Research and Applied Musicology graduate programmes. The newly appointed, full professor will closely collaborate with the other chair in Musicology: Music and Media, as well as the other professors in the department.

2. Historical Musicology

Historical musicology investigates music as a historical phenomenon, from the beginning of human history to the present. The rediscovery in the 19th century of musical notations from the period after 800 was a crucial moment in the development of the discipline. Therefore, despite the existence of relatively few written sources from Antiquity as well as beyond Europe, historical musicology is focused on Europe since the emergence of Gregorian chant and its notation systems. Dutch musicologists have been active in this field from the very beginning and are internationally recognized as making important contributions relevant to music around 1500 (Josquin, Ockeghem).

Historical musicology in Utrecht was established as an academic discipline in the 1930s. Since then, it has attained an international reputation for its research in early music, particularly from the Low Countries. Upon joining the Department of Media and Culture Studies, the musicology programme developed interdisciplinary collaborations with media and performance studies and became subsequently involved in digital approaches to the study of European musical heritage. Musicology in Utrecht maintains close ties with the Dutch musical infrastructure. In addition, Dutch musicologists have played a major role in generating knowledge about the musical heritage of the Low Countries. Over the past decade, historical musicology before 1600, for which the Utrecht programme was traditionally renowned, achieved new prominence.

In line with the major challenges that musicology has undergone in recent decades, also in Utrecht the object of study has diversified and expanded. Today's musicology is strongly interdisciplinary in character, and now includes all genres of popular and applied music, including music for film and video games. Musicology studies all these phenomena as well as the interaction between European/western music and non-European/non-western music cultures. Currently, the extensive field of Medical Humanities, the physiology of listening and hearing - as well as the Cognitive Humanities, that investigates links between music and psychology, neurology, and cognition - have also attracted the interest of Utrecht musicologists.

3. National and international context

The profiles of the Utrecht musicology chairs focus on western music history and, therefore, differ from the professorships at the universities of Amsterdam (UvA), Leuven and Ghent.

Since the 1980s, the UvA musicology programme has been oriented towards ethnomusicology ('cultural musicology'; chair: Prof. Julia Kursell) and the development of empirical research in music (music cognition; chair: Prof. Henkjan Honing). Historical musicology receives considerably less attention in Amsterdam when compared to Utrecht, although UvA does offer western music history in its curriculum.

Meanwhile, musicology at the Catholic University Leuven has been specializing in music analysis and music theory (chairs: Prof. Mark Deleare; Prof. David Burn). It has developed a strong international reputation in these areas. The Université Catholique de Louvain focuses on ethnomusicology (chair: Prof. Brigitte Van Wymeersch). The musicology programme at Ghent focuses especially on empirical music research (chair: Prof. Marc Leman).

Developments in Amsterdam, Leuven and Ghent notwithstanding, the international musicological mainstream continues to be dominated by its historical strand. This is clearly visible in the most prestigious universities, especially those in the Anglo-Saxon world and continental Europe. The Utrecht programme is internationally recognized as one of the leaders in the field. With the appointment of a new professor in historical musicology, the Department of Media and Culture Studies wishes to consolidate Utrecht's position in the mainstream of the field as well as further strengthening it in the future. It is our ambition to develop musicology in Utrecht into the strongest programme of its kind in the Benelux.

In addition to the full academic musicology programmes mentioned above, musicology in Utrecht should also be seen in relation to musicology embedded in other programmes in Dutch higher education. These include modules that are part of broader art and culture curricula at, for example, the universities of Groningen, Nijmegen and Maastricht, and the ethnomusicological strands that are part of Asian Studies in Leiden. Moreover, there are 23 BA and 14 MA programmes in music performance in The Netherlands in arts academies ('hogescholen voor de kunsten'). The majority of these are geared towards the training of professional musicians and music (performance) teachers. Finally, there are five applied lectureships (so-called 'lectoren') in professional arts training institutions (at the AHK, Codarts, the HKU, and two at Hanzehogeschool in Groningen). None of these specialize or engage in historical musicology. The same goes for the Arts Faculty at Leiden University, which collaborates with the Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague on arts-based research of musicians.

4. Profile of the Chair in Historical Musicology at UU

The chair is an innovator in research and teaching in a relevant area of historical musicology. The chair is effective in strengthening the musicology team and building relationships with other segments of the Media and Culture Studies department, the Humanities faculty, the university, the surrounding music sector, as well as in the international field of musicology.

The chair is an internationally respected researcher in historical musicology. The chair has specialist knowledge of specific periods or aspects of music history and is also experienced in research and teaching across a broad range of topics in historical musicology. The chair has up-to-date knowledge of the latest developments in musicology and cultivates an extensive national and international network both within and outside of academia. In addition, the chair firmly believes in interdisciplinary collaboration and possesses the necessary personality traits to inspire colleagues in musicology as well as in other fields within the department. Therefore, a specialization in interdisciplinary research and/or affinity with additional fields of research is considered an important asset.

Utrecht University is known for its thematic and interdisciplinary research orientation. The University Board has substantially invested in strategic themes that run across all Faculties: Institutions for Open Societies, Dynamics of Youth, Pathways to Sustainability, and Life Sciences. The chair is invited to explore productive connections with these themes.

The chair is expected to be able and willing to fulfill management tasks on various levels, in particular to lead the research group Musicology and to represent it in the scientific council of the research institute. Moreover, the chair can be asked to take on responsibilities regarding the governance of the department, as director of education, research director or head of department, but also on the level of the faculty.

5. Required Qualifications

Research

The successful candidate:

- has a thorough knowledge of Historical Musicology, with specialist expertise in one or more particular areas;
- is internationally recognized as an excellent senior researcher, as evidenced by regular publications in international peer-reviewed journals and books published by prestigious academic publishers;
- has demonstrated the capacity to set up his/her own innovative line of research;
- has successfully supervised young researchers, especially PhD students;
- is capable of, and ideally also experienced in interdisciplinary cooperation;
- is capable of designing, securing and successfully completing large (inter)national research projects and grants.

Teaching

The successful candidate:

- is an inspiring teacher;
- is capable of developing new teaching initiatives in historical musicology in interdisciplinary contexts;
- has experience teaching at the BA, MA and Ph.D. levels;
- preferably has teaching experience in a variety of international settings;

- is able and willing to teach in Dutch and in English. (Candidates whose command of Dutch is insufficient at the time of appointment are expected to master the Dutch language in two years' time).

Cooperation

The successful candidate:

- is able to supervise and lead the musicology section in an inspiring way;
- is able to engage in, and to further develop, cooperation networks within the department, with other groups in the faculty and the university, and with the focus areas / strategic themes of the UU;
- plays an active role in international musicological networks;
- can position and make visible his/her research and the research of the staff members on an international level.

Management and administration

The successful candidate:

- is able to take on administrative duties in the department (and at faculty level);
- possesses the communicative and organizational skills required for this senior-level post;
- is a team player with both leadership and social skills.

Qualification system for teaching and research at Utrecht University

Utrecht University has a system of qualifying diplomas for teaching and research. This means that, in addition to a PhD in a relevant discipline, a senior qualifying diploma for teaching and a senior qualifying diploma for research are required. Candidates who transfer from another university and do not possess these Dutch qualifications may submit a portfolio for teaching and another for research, on the basis of which the Dean of the Faculty may grant the necessary senior qualifying diplomas prior to the appointment.