A career in the music industry is not easy. The competition is fierce, talent alone provides no guarantees, and you’re only going to get so many chances to prove yourself. In short, you’re going to need every break you can get. For many, music schools can, at the very least, provide the necessary experience and training to help navigate a particularly cutthroat industry.

After all, everyone from John Williams to Alicia Keys benefitted from a formal musical education. Choosing the right school, however, is daunting. So whether you want to become one of the world’s best violinists, compose music for the big screen or master the recording studio, THR’s ranking of the top 25 music schools and programs will help narrow the search.
THE TOP 25 MUSIC SCHOOLS 2016

1. The Juilliard School
2. USC Thornton School of Music
3. San Francisco Conservatory of Music
4. Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University
5. University of North Carolina School for the Arts
6. Columbia College
7. Columbia University
8. Berklee College of Music
9. Oberlin Conservatory of Music
10. New England Conservatory
11. Curtis Institute of Music
12. Eastman School of Music
13. Royal College of Music
14. Yale School of Music
15. University of Miami, Frost School of Music
16. University of North Texas
17. California State University, Northridge
18. Middle Tennessee State University
19. Manhattan School of Music
20. California Institute of the Arts
21. Syracuse University
22. New York University
23. UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music
24. Belmont University
25. Full Sail University