The Sigal Music Museum, located on Heritage Green in downtown Greenville, is home to one of the largest collections of historically significant musical instruments in the country. Our newest exhibit, Sounds of America, is an opportunity to enhance your Music or US History curriculum with a tour in the 2022-2023 school year.

Sounds of America will uncover stories from the founding of America to modern day, displaying a cross-section of genres, artists, and developing technologies for recording and listening to music. The exhibit will look at the development of music not just from the performer's perspective, but also the consumer's experience. This will allow your students to absorb the sights and sounds of the early eras of our history, and further understand the context of your lessons. One of our core beliefs at the Sigal Music Museum is that one of the best ways to understand a historical era is to listen to its music. Sounds of America will allow your students to do just that, and experience history through the lens of music.

If you are interested in scheduling a tour to align with part of your curriculum, please let us know as far in advance as you can. We want to make this a memorable and meaningful experience for you and your class.
Josh White, a native of Greenville, SC, rose to prominence in the folk/blues scene in the 1930s, becoming a favorite of the Roosevelts. White was the first African American to perform at the White House, as well as the first African American to sell one million records with “One Meatball”. In addition to these accomplishments, White was one of the first ambassadors of blues music in Europe, where he played for massive audiences and undoubtedly influenced the first generation of British blues/rock musicians that would become the “British Invasion”. Later in his career, White testified in front of the House Un-American Activities Committee and gave a stirring speech about the role of artists in society. A quote from White’s testimony can be seen on the back of a new bronze mural on Falls Park Dr. in Greenville.

We are thrilled to be able to display Josh White’s primary instrument throughout his career, his 1943 Martin guitar. This will be the first time that White’s guitar will be on display in his hometown, let alone the Southeast!

Other Blues and Jazz artists will be featured in Sounds of America, allowing us to tell the story of developing genres and performers in the first half of the 20th century. Visitors will be able to listen to music selections from these artists and see recorded and promotional material.

We are equally thrilled to have Josh White Jr., to perform for our exhibit opening on Friday, July 8, 2022. Josh White Jr, who is 82 years old, visited Greenville last October for the dedication of the sculpture of his father on Falls Park Dr. Local musicians will also perform at the event.
The Behrent Piano

A cornerstone of Sounds of America is the John Behrent Piano, the first ever to be advertised and sold in America - March 13, 1775. It is one of the most important American pianos in existence. Thought to be lost to the world, Sounds of America will formally introduce it back into the world!

Another feature of Sounds of America will be a recreation of an early Greenville music storefront, John H. Williams Music, c. 1905. This three-dimensional display will serve as a backdrop to feature many instruments and players that would have been sold to Greenville citizens in the early 20th century: pianos, phonographs, sheet music, and a variety of smaller instruments. Some of Williams’ ads from the Greenville News will also be featured.

One of the more exciting interactive elements of Sounds of America is a recording studio on the second floor. Visitors will be able to adjust the audio mix of a song, highlighting different instruments. Vintage instruments from mid-twentieth century will be featured in this area.

Several genres of music had their emergence near the turn of the century, including the “Zither Craze” that swept the nation in the late 1800s. Other instruments, like autoharps, marxophones, and other unique instrument will be featured. Another feature of the exhibit is a wide variety of sheet music from the late 1800s into the mid-1900s.
The history of recorded music and “listening technology” will be given a full retrospective in *Sounds of America*, including gramophones, a wire recorder, turntables, transistor radios, 8 track players, a Walkman, an early iPod, and many other devices will be displayed in an interactive arrangement.

Exposure to original items such as those found in *Sounds of America* will give your students an extra layer of depth to their understanding of American History. Student musicians will gain a deeper appreciation of their craft, seeing some of the ancestors of their chosen instrument.

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**BOOK A TOUR**

The Sigal Music Museum is small, which prevents us from hosting groups of more than 50 at a time. If your group is larger than 50, please contact us to discuss making other arrangements. We are located next door to the Upcountry History Museum, so many larger tours divide their time between the two museums.

**Admission for a group tour is $5 for students and chaperones**
- Payment can either be made on-site with card, cash, or check.
- If preferred, an invoice can be sent out ahead of time.

Tours can be booked by calling (864) 520-8807 or by email at david@sigalmusicmuseum.org

Thank you for considering Sigal Music Museum for a tour of *Sounds of America*. We look forward to seeing you and your students!