

# Sam Sandberg | Data Scientist, MLE

US Citizen – Atlanta, GA

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*Mostly Piano and Guitar. Bikes and Skateboards. Dadding. Recommender Systems, Knowledge Representation, and Vector Space Operations. Backyard Barbecues and Reunions in the Park.*

## Skills

- Concepts: Data, ML, Software, VCS, Testing, Documentation, Agile/Scrum, TCB
- Tools: Python/Java/C++/etc., SQL, GCP/AWS, TLA; English, some Spanish/French/Slovenian/Danish

## Experience

**Pandora (SiriusXM)** **Atlanta, GA**  
*Staff Scientist, Radio and Music Informatics* *March 2019 – Present*

- Realtime scoring service, candidate generation, A/B experimentation, etc. for popular music service with 40M+ monthly active users
- Personally responsible for scaling a music transformer model to production scale (10k+ RPS, ~30ms avg, etc.) for realtime inference on internal CPU-based general purpose container orchestrator, plus A/B testing, with a lift in listening hours >1.5% and active days >0.67%
- Trained live/studio classifier with 91% accuracy using foundational audio models, efficiently scaling inference predictions to 100M+ tracks
- Assisted more junior teams with complex Hive job optimizations resulting in cost savings of >\$100k/annually
- Latent vector space research, contributions to several peer-reviewed RecSys/ISMIR/ICASSP papers

**Hifi (Acquired by Block)** **New York, NY / Atlanta, GA**  
*Chief Architect* *November 2013 – March 2019*

- Designed and implemented APIs, data pipelines, AWS/Heroku, Postgres/Redis, monitoring, docs, testing, CI/CD, etc.
- Modeled interaction data (CF, Word2Vec, RNN, etc.), audio data (CNN, etc.), model ensembling, etc.
- Early M&A activity, including successful A/B test against Amazon music recs, on-site team interviews, etc.

**GetGlue** **New York, NY**  
*Backend Engineer* *April 2013 – November 2013*

- New API, data layer, social/partner integrations

**Zemanta** **Ljubljana, Slovenia**  
*Backend Software Engineer* *February 2011 – April 2013*

- Internal/external tooling for blogging-related product, research on semantic topics/user behavior

**The Orchard** **New York, NY**  
*Senior Web Developer* *June 2010 – February 2011*

- Music/video encoding/delivery system, Artist Builder product, social integrations

**Kargo** **New York, NY**  
*Software Developer* *May 2007 – June 2010*

- Early hire in what is now a massive company, pioneered early mobile web development and best practices

**The George Washington University** **Washington, DC**  
*Teaching Assistant, Computer Science* *September 2007 – May 2008*

## Education

**The George Washington University** **Washington, DC**  
*Computer Science (Masters of Science), GPA: 3.88/4.00* *Fall 2007 – Spring 2008*  
School of Engineering and Applied Science

**The George Washington University** **Washington, DC**  
*Computer Science (Bachelor of Science), GPA: 3.61/4.00* *Fall 2003 – Spring 2007*  
School of Engineering and Applied Science, Sigma Alpha Mu

**Denmark International Study Program** **Copenhagen, Denmark**  
*Semester Abroad* *Spring 2006*

## Interests

- baking, beer, camaraderie, cycling, family, guitar, hardware, languages, music, the ocean, skateboarding, software, sports, travel, vinyl