

# Music APIs

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# What can music APIs do?

- Provide data about artists, tracks, albums
  - MusicBrainz, LyricWiki, Yahoo Music
- Provide concert information
  - Gruvr, JamBase
- Identify music based on sound fingerprints
  - MusicDNS
- Access your streaming music
  - Rhapsody, Pandora
- Share/contribute with other listeners
  - Last.FM, OpenStrands, iLike

# MusicBrainz

<http://tinyurl.com/mbrainz-api>

- Unique ID's for each artist, track, album, label
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- **Example - Searching for artist "Rolling Stones"**
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- Use MBID:
  - [http://musicbrainz.org/ws/1/artist/\[MBID\]?type=xml](http://musicbrainz.org/ws/1/artist/[MBID]?type=xml)
  - Requires knowing the MBID!
- Use artist name:
  - [http://musicbrainz.org/ws/1/artist/?query=\[ARTIST\\_NAME\]&type=xml](http://musicbrainz.org/ws/1/artist/?query=[ARTIST_NAME]&type=xml)
  - Returns "Rolling Stones", "Rolling Stock", "Thirty Stones", etc - Uh oh!

*Community keeps the music data up to date -- great source of music metadata!*

# Last.FM

<http://www.last.fm/api/intro>

Great for...

- tagging artists/music
- finding out what other people are listening to
- "scrobbling" your own music

*Uses MusicBrainz IDs!*

# Pandora

<http://tinyurl.com/pandora-api> (Sorry, it's just a JS file...)

**Unsupported! Undocumented! Unpredictable!**

Uses a .swf file that triggers "events" in Javascript listeners:

- SongPlayed, SongPaused, etc.
- Passes JSON object to callback function

```
{artistName: "Rolling Stones", songName: "Rocks Off", ... }
```

Only a few Pandora mashups in the wild...