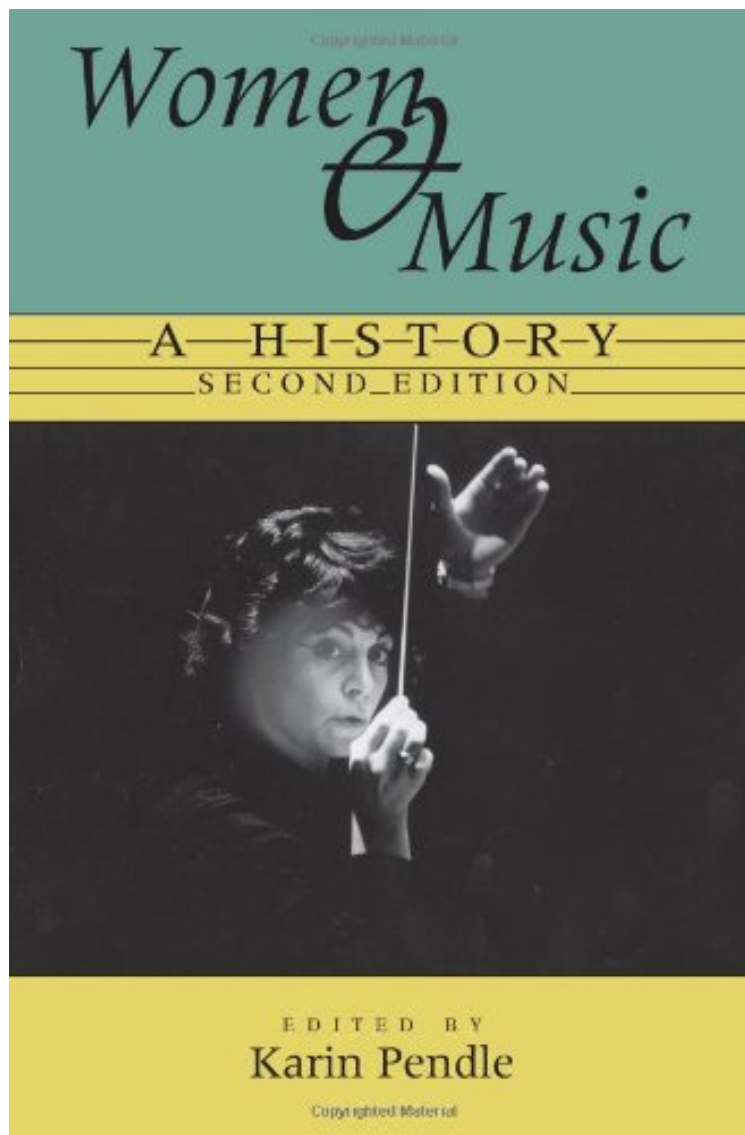


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About the Author Karin Pendle is Professor of Musicology at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. Her publications include several studies on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century opera. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.
Torn between expectations of a traditional woman's role and her musical ambitions, [Carrie] Jacobs-Bond decided in 1893 to bring some money into the household through her music. She arranged with a Chicago publisher to issue two of her songs, launching her career as a composer. Most of her 200 works are songs she published herself, painting the decorative title pages and promoting them by her own performances. 'A Perfect Day' (1910), her biggest hit, sold eight million copies and five million records and appeared in sixty editions. Jacobs-Bond said that her aim was to write "the simple songs for the people rather than intricate and curious pieces which only the critics extol for their eccentricities." Although originally intended for the recital stage, her music became part of the popular culture.