

(Fr. *basson*; Ger. *Fagott*; It. *Fagotto*)

BASSOON

FINDING MUSIC FOR THE BASSOON IN THE WESTERN MUSIC LIBRARY

The Western Libraries Music Library contains a wealth of music for the bassoon major. Some of this repertoire will be found in obvious locations, while other important repertoire is scattered throughout the collection. Of special importance to bassoonists is the Solo Music Reference Collection (see 5 below).

1. FINDING a KNOWN piece of music

Any piece of music for which you know the composer and the title may be found by looking in the **Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue**: www.lib.uwo.ca

Choose the **KEYWORD** (*a.k.a.* 'Boolean') option of the Catalogue; combine the composer's name with a unique title, opus number (numerals ONLY), and/or thematic catalogue number, being sure to type the word **AND** in-between your **KEYWORDS**. This will help to narrow your search, and find desired items quickly:

e.g. **Mozart and 191** should retrieve Mozart's B-flat major bassoon concerto, K. 191 (all versions, print + recorded)

e.g. **Mozart and 191 and part** will retrieve those editions (piano reductions) which come with a separate bassoon part

If you are unsure of titles, opus or thematic catalogue numbers, refer to the repertoire guides listed below or consult "**Works**" lists in articles on individual composers in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (29 vols.). You may also consult the online version of **NG**.

Don't forget to look in collections of music by your composer (the library finds it cheaper and more convenient to buy all the sonatas of a composer in one volume than to purchase single sonatas, *etc.*).

The **Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue** is accessible to everyone at:

www.lib.uwo.ca

However, your Western Identity (username and password) are **REQUIRED** to access our licensed online resources (i.e. e-books, e-

journals, online indexes, *Opera In Video Online* and *NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY*

2. BROWSING on the shelf for music

Most, but not all, bassoon music can be found in the following areas:

M 75 - 79	(bassoon alone - without accompaniment)
M 253 - 254	(bassoon with piano or continuo)
M 1026	(bassoon with full orchestra, concertos, etc.)
M 1027	(bassoon with piano reduction of concertos, etc.)
M 1126	(bassoon with string orchestra, concertos, etc.)
M 1127	(bassoon with piano reduction of concertos, etc. for bassoon and strings)
MT 400 - 415	(studies and methods for bassoon)
MT 406	(orchestral excerpts)

For a complete explanation of these call numbers and other useful call numbers, see the book **LC CLASSIFICATION/CLASS M, Music** located near the reference desk.

3. Using the SUBJECT index

Particular types of bassoon music will be easily found using the **Subject Index** of the Libraries Catalogue.

A **SUBJECT** search is NOT the same as a **KEYWORD** search. *Library of Congress Subject Headings* are assigned by cataloguers therefore, to retrieve materials in our library you must use the same Subject Headings that the cataloguers use!!

*** **WARNING !!!** ***

If you use the Subject Heading "**BASSOON MUSIC**" you will find **miscellaneous** solo works only. Most music will be found under the specific genre, e.g.

SONATAS – BASSOON AND PIANO

SUITES – BASSOON AND CONTINUO

CONCERTOS – BASSOON

[this will retrieve recordings and full scores]

CONCERTOS – BASSOON WITH STRING ORCHESTRA

CONCERTOS – BASSOON – SOLO WITH PIANO [orchestral reductions]

Other useful Subject Headings are:

BASSOON – INSTRUCTION AND STUDY

BASSOON – ORCHESTRA STUDIES

BASSOON – STUDIES AND EXERCISES etc.

Accustom yourself to looking for the specific genre and instrumentation when using the Subject Index. For a more complete listing of the subject headings employed in the Western libraries, see *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (5 large red volumes) located near the Music Reference Desk.

4. ENSEMBLES using the bassoon

For information on this topic, consult the handout *Woodwind Ensembles*.

5. Bassoon music in the SOLO MUSIC REFERENCE COLLECTION

Much unusual and twentieth-century music

for the bassoon may be found in the **Solo Music Reference Collection** housed in the Choral/Band/Orchestral Library - TC 134.

The general classification for bassoon music in the SMRC is:

MUS 4075.

REPertoire LISTS

For assistance in identifying appropriate repertoire for the bassoon (alone and in combination with other instruments) the following reference sources are very useful:

Koenigsbeck, Bodo. *Bassoon Bibliography*.
Monteux, France: Musica Rara, 1994.
Ref ML 128.B26 K74 1994

Comprehensive and designed for a wide audience: preface and indexes are in English, French and German. Organized in two main sections: an alphabetical list by composer (giving dates of birth, composition and/or first performance--plus scoring for larger works) and an index of instrumental combinations. Does not include arrangements. Should be in every serious bassoonist's personal library!

Beebe, Jon P. *Music for Unaccompanied Solo Bassoon: an annotated bibliography*.
Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1990.
Ref ML 128.B26 B43 1990

Includes unpublished works and provides details on commercially-available recordings. Provides durations, melodic range of works, and discusses the level of difficulty. Also includes those works for unspecified instrument which are suitable for the bassoon, and a glossary of unusual performance techniques.

Wilkins, Wayne. *The Index of Bassoon Music*.
Magnolia, Ark.: The Music Music Register, 1976. **Ref ML 128.B25 W5 + Supplements**

Fletcher, Kristine Klopfenstein. *The Paris Conservatoire and the Contest Solos for Bassoon*.
Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988. **Ref ML 128.B26 F6 1988**

Provides a history of the Paris Conservatoire and its bassoon professors. Lists the bassoon contest solos by year (1827-1894), and evaluates the commissioned solos from 1898-1984. Also useful for composers' dates.

Jansen, Will. *The Bassoon: Its History, Construction, Makers, Players and Music*.
5 vols. Buren: Frits Knuf, 1978.
ML 950.J36 1978

A loosely organized set of five volumes, containing a wealth of information on the development and history of the bassoon and contrabassoon, makers and players of the past and present, repertoire lists and bibliography.

Canadian Music Centre. *Canadian Chamber Music=Musique de Chambre Canadienne*.
[s.l.]: CMC, 1980. **Ref ML 128.C4 C34 1980**

This work also includes solo works for instrumentalists.

Rangel-Riberio, Victor and Robert Markel.
Chamber Music: An International Guide to Works and Their Instrumentation. New York: Facts on File, 1993. **Ref ML 128.C4R3 1993**

Divided into three sections: composers before Haydn/Mozart; composers from Beethoven to our time; Master Quick-Reference Index. Organized by composer and title, instrumentation is listed in a grid. Includes date of composition/publication, key, duration, and publisher. Also lists music for voice. Three asterisks (***) denote ANY combination of instruments. Very useful.

REED-MAKING

Information on bassoon reed-making can be found using the Subject Heading:

BASSOON – REPAIRING

Some related information is under the Subject Heading (yes, oboe!):

OBOE – REEDS

PERIODICALS for Bassoonists

The Music Library subscribes to many periodicals of interest to bassoonists. Included are:

Journal of the International Double Reed Society

Instrumentalist

Early Music

International Musician

Galpin Society Journal

For holdings and the call numbers of these and other periodicals consult the **Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue**. See also the related handout ***Periodical Literature***.

HISTORY OF THE BASSOON and Bassoon Music

For detailed and scholarly information the history of the bassoon and members of the bassoon family and bassoon repertory, consult the article in the ***New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians***, 29 vols. (London: Macmillan, 2001). **[Located on the Dictionary Table, and on www.]** The extensive bibliography lists books and journal articles on the bassoon – Western's Music

Library has many of the books and articles cited.

When using a bibliography, please be sure to distinguish between books (*titles always listed in italics*) and periodical or journal articles ("titles always listed within quotation marks") to save yourself valuable time.

Call numbers for books may be found by searching by either **AUTHOR** or **TITLE**, or by using a **KEYWORD** search to combine author and title words.

Call numbers for journal articles may be found by searching for the **title of the journal** (****NOT**** the title of the article !!) in the Western Libraries **Shared Library Catalogue**. So, if your citation looks like:

Semmens, Richard, "The Bassoons in Marin Mersenne's Harmonie Universelle (1636)," **JAMIS**, (1984), 22–31.

you must search the Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue – BY TITLE, or better yet, by JOURNAL TITLE – using the full title which is represented by the acronym **JAMIS** (*Journal of the American Musical Instrument Society* – this information will be found under the Bibliographical Abbreviations in the **New Grove**).

An excellent reference work of recent vintage, dedicated to all aspects of bassoon playing is:

Lippori, Daniel G. ***A Researcher's Guide to the Bassoon.*** Studies in the History and Interpretation of Music, v. 90. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2002. **Ref ML 128.B26 L56 2002**

Lists bassoon-related articles from a wide range of sources, on reed-making to repertoire, to important players, teachers, and makers. Includes references to fingerings, history, reeds, design, maintenance and repair and music for bassoon in a wide range of instrumental combinations. Also includes information on related instruments, bassoon tutors and technique. Belongs on every serious bassoonist's bookshelf.

PERFORMANCE PRACTICE

Early method books (a.k.a. "tutors") are important sources of information regarding performance practice. The following microfilm set will be invaluable for this type of research:

The history of musical instruments [microform] : manuals, tutors and méthodes. Reading, England ; Woodbridge, CT : Research Publications, 1988 **MT 172.H477 1988**

A 36-reel microfilm set of tutors and methods, many of which were written by the leading virtuosi of their day. While many of the sources will

contain material of interest, **Part 1, reel 1**, contains five treatises for bassoon; **Part 2, reel 23** lists three methods for bassoon. Each Part has its own printed index, located in the Music Reference area (call number listed above).

Part 1. Instrumental tutors from the Bate collection of musical instruments, Oxford and the private library of Philip Bate (**10 reels**)

Part 2. Tutors and methodes from the F.J. Fétis Collection at the Bibliotheque Royale Albert I^{er}, Brussels (**26 reels**).

Additional information regarding Performing Practice can be found in a variety of sources, both online and print:

- **www.grovemusic.com** (see the articles on "Performing Practice" and "Ornamentation")
- **ML 457** is the classification section for performance practice - see the books by Cyr, Donington, Kivy and Leppard
- Search the Libraries Catalogue by SUBJECT: **performance practice**

RECORDINGS of Bassoon Music

Although *most* of the Western Libraries Music Library's sound recordings can be found via the **Western Libraries Catalogue**, many other cannot.

Most commercially-recorded bassoon music for which you know the composer and the title may be found by combining the composer's name with significant words from the title via a **KEYWORD** search in the **Western Libraries Catalogue**.

Alternately, if you are looking for a recording by a particular performer, you may type his/her name following the **AUTHOR** command,

e.g. **WEAIT, CHRISTOPHER.**

KEYWORD searching is the most effective way to quickly find a desired recording: type single, significant keywords (e.g. composer's surname, a significant word from the title of the work, sound – or "compact" (to retrieve CDs ONLY), etc.) with "**AND**" between EACH keyword.

To locate **recent** recordings (after first checking the **Western Libraries Catalogue** by **AUTHOR** (i.e. performer) or by **KEYWORD**), consult the Reference Librarian: we may wish to order a copy for the Music Library.

The Music Library now has a subscription to **NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY** (online). Currently-registered students, staff and faculty can access

this service from home, by logging-in to OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS at www.lib.uwo.ca - at the upper L.H. side of the screen - and then using the Shared Library Catalogue to search for individual musical works, performers - OR - for NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY - and then search the product directly.

Don Wright Faculty of Music RECITALS

In addition to commercially-produced recordings, there are hundreds of **Don Wright Faculty of Music Student/Faculty/Guest Artist Recitals**, which were taped during the period 1965 - the present. Until 1988, or so, recitals were automatically taped for archival purposes. After that time, the process became much more selective – so that one cannot rely upon finding a tape for every Don Wright Faculty of Music performance. Access to this collection is provided by computer-generated indexes housed in pale blue covers. You will find these indexes in the last row of the Reference Section - nearest the Reference Desk. Should you find a performance you wish to hear, you must:

make note of the appropriate reference number – from the left-hand column!!

Then leave a note for Mr. Mike Godwin in his mailbox in the Main Office (T.C. 210) stating your name and the tape reference number (which will look like: **81-148c**): ask that he place the tape in the Music Library. He will then leave the recording (probably a CD) at the Music Library's Circulation Desk – you may listen to same, upon surrender of appropriate identification.

Dubbing is NOT permitted in the Library, but you can make arrangements to purchase copies (of recital tapes ONLY) by applying at the Faculty of Music Main Office (T.C. 210).

RELATED HANDOUTS

USING THE SOLO MUSIC REFERENCE COLLECTION

WOODWIND ENSEMBLES

Prepared by: **Jane A. Pearce Baldwin**
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