

BRASS ENSEMBLES

FINDING MUSIC FOR BRASS ENSEMBLES IN Western's MUSIC LIBRARY

The Music Library contains much music for brass ensemble, and for brass instruments in combination with other instruments. Some of this music will be found in obvious locations while other important repertoire is scattered throughout the collection.

1. Finding a KNOWN piece of music

Any piece of music for which you know the composer and the title may be searched in the **Western Libraries CATALOGUE** at 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, and/or thematic catalogue number (it is no longer necessary to type the word **AND** in-between your KEYWORDS). This will help to narrow your search, and find desired items quickly:

E.g. gabrieli sonare brass parts

should retrieve *all* performing editions of Gabrieli's *Canzoni* as owned by the Music Library.

If you are unsure of titles, opus or thematic catalogue numbers, refer to the various repertoire guides listed below, or consult "Works" lists in articles on Individual composers as found in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2nd ed., (29 vols.).

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.*)

2. Piano with ONE brass instrument

For information on this topic, consult the handouts on individual instruments, e.g. *Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Tuba, etc.*

3. Searching by "Subject Heading" (Library of Congress) to find music for brass ensembles

A **SUBJECT HEADING** search is **NOT** the same as a **KEYWORD** search. *Library of Congress Subject Headings* are assigned by cataloguers: therefore, to retrieve specific types of works (as in a distinctive, specific instrumentation) in our library, you must use the same Subject Headings that the cataloguers use!

a. Brasses-only in ensemble

The basic Subject Headings for brass ensembles are found in the **Subject Index of the Western Libraries Catalogue**; they are:

**BRASS TRIOS
BRASS QUARTETS
BRASS QUINTETS
BRASS SEXTETS
BRASS SEPTETS
BRASS OCTETS
BRASS NONETS**

The instrumentation is listed in alphabetical order, **NOT** in score order, after each heading, e.g.:

BRASS TRIOS (HORN, TROMBONE, TRUMPET)

BRASS QUINTETS (HORN, TRUMPETS (2), TROMBONE, TUBA)

etc.

b. Brasses with other instruments in ensemble

Ensembles consisting of one or more brass instruments in combination with non-brass instruments are considered to be *mixed* ensembles. The basic Subject Headings for such ensembles are: **TRIOS, QUARTETS, ... NONETS.**

Exception: brass instruments with woodwind instruments **only** are found under the basic headings: **WIND TRIOS, WIND QUARTETS, ... WIND NONETS.**

After each basic Subject Heading (QUARTETS, etc.), instruments are organized in the following order:

keyboard

winds (includes woodwinds and brasses) – these are sub-arranged alphabetically
percussion

strings – arranged in score order

Some examples are:

TRIOS (PIANO, HORN, VIOLIN)
QUARTETS (TRUMPET, VIOLIN, VIOLA, VIOLONCELLO)
QUINTETS (HORN, VIOLINS (2), VIOLA, VIOLONCELLO)
WIND QUINTETS (BASSOON, CLARINET, FLUTE, HORN, OBOE)**

**** horn players take note that this is the standard combination for wind quintet and that the instruments are listed in alphabetical order.**

****IMPORTANT****

When searching by **SUBJECT** on the **Western Libraries Catalogue**, you **must** be very careful to input the instrumentation of the ensemble in the order explained above.

You must also distinguish between those ensembles that consist of brasses alone (e.g. **BRASS TRIOS**) and mixed ensembles (e.g. **TRIOS** – including other instrument types). Note that the keyboard instrument is always listed first when there are more than two instruments in the ensemble.

4. BROWSING on the shelf for music

Browsing is a legitimate means of finding repertoire. (How can you tell that a work is playable, without looking at it?!) Some useful call numbers for browsing the shelves are:

M 357.4 – brass trios

M 457.4 – brass quartets

M 557.4 – brass quintets

M 657.4 – brass sextets

M 757.4 – brass septets

M 857.4 – brass octets

M 957.4 – brass nonets

For a complete explanation of these call numbers and others (strings in combination with other instruments), refer to **LC Classification/Class M, Music** located on the reference desk.

5. Music for brass ensembles in the CHORAL/BAND/ORCHESTRAL Library

The Choral/Band/Orchestral Library houses some music for brass ensemble with 10+ players. These works may be found by consulting the Subject Index under the heading **CBO – BRASS ENSEMBLES**. CBO staff will assist you in locating these materials on the shelves.

REPERTOIRE LISTS

For assistance in identifying appropriate repertoire for brass ensembles the following reference sources are very useful:

Anderson, Paul G. **Brass Music Guide : Ensemble Music in Print**. Northfield, IL.: Instrumentalist, 1987. [Ref ML 128.B72 A62 1987]

This extensive index lists works both by category and by composer.

Music-in-print Series [electronic resource] / Donald Reese, compiler. [ONLINE]

Frequently overlooked, this product has a Brass section, wherein you may search by specific instruments (check the abbreviations list, **FIRST**), as well as by composer, arranger and publisher.

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

Includes brief description, degree of difficulty, duration, **etc.** This work also lists solo works for instrumentalists.

Canadian Music Centre. ***Brass Chamber Music in the Library of the Canadian Music Centre*** [s.l.]: CMC, 1993.
[Ref ML 128.B72 C35 1993]

Cohn, Arthur. ***The Literature of Chamber Music***. Chapel Hill, N.C. : Hinshaw Music, 1997.
[Ref ML 128.C4C6 1997 v. 1-4]

Impressive listing of chamber repertoire for two to 9 players, intended to be performed by one player per part. Clear, accessible, with commentaries, essays and special notes (suitable for use in programme notes). Organized alphabetically, by composer. Highly-recommended.

Scott, William. ***A Conductor's Repertory of Chamber Music: compositions for nine to fifteen solo instruments***. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1993.
[Ref ML 128.C4 S37 1993]

Works are listed by composer, by combination of similar instruments, and by title.

Rangel-Ribeiro, Victor and Robert Markel. ***Chamber Music: An International Guide to Works and Their Instrumentation***. New York: Facts on File, 1993.
[Ref ML128.C4R3 1993]

A handy list 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 format.

Much ensemble literature may also be found using the repertoire lists for individual instruments - see our handouts for those instruments.

Call numbers for books (ONLY) 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 periodical** (**NOT** the title of the article!!) in the **Western Libraries Catalogue**:

e.g. Brass Bulletin

Some particularly useful titles are:

Baron, John H. ***Chamber Music: A Research and Information Guide***. New York: Routledge, 2010.
[Ref ML 128.C4 B37 2010]

Baron, John H. ***Intimate Music : A History of the Idea of Chamber Music***. Stuyvesant, NY : Pendragon Press, 1998.
[ML 1100.B36 1998] also in **E-BOOK**

Hefling, Stephen E. ***Nineteenth-century Chamber Music***. New York: Routledge, 2004. [ML 1104.N56 2004]

King, A. Hyatt. ***Chamber Music***. London: Chanticleer Press, 1948. [ML 1100.K5]

Fiske, Roger. ***Chamber Music***. London: BBC, [1969]. [ML 1120.F48]

Ulrich, Homer. ***Chamber Music***. New York: Columbia University Press, 1966.
[ML 1100.U47 1966]

HISTORY of chamber music

For detailed and scholarly information on the history of brass chamber music, consult the article on "Chamber Music" in the ***New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians***, 2nd ed. 29 vols. (London: Macmillan, 2001). [Located on the Dictionary Table, and on www.] The extensive bibliography (listed in chronological order) cites books and journal articles about chamber music – Western's Music Library has many of the books and articles cited in this bibliography.

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. **Remember that journal titles are often abbreviated in a bibliography – and that a list of abbreviations will give the FULL TITLE of the journal or periodical.** Look up the journal's FULL TITLE on the **Western Libraries Catalogue**.

PERFORMING PRACTICE

Historically-informed performance is an ongoing consideration for all performers. Following are titles which may prove useful to brass players.

Cyr, Mary. ***Performing Baroque Music***. Portland, Or. : Amadeus Press, 1992. **ML 457.C9 1992**

A practical guide to all aspects of Baroque music performance.

Hefling, Stephen E. ***Rhythmic Alteration in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Music : Notes Inégales and Overdotting***. New York : Schirmer Books, 1993.
ML 437.H43 1993

Carter, Stewart (ed.) *A Performer's Guide to Seventeenth-century Music*. New York : Schirmer Books, c1997. [ML 457.P477 1997]

One can often gain a useful perspective on performing practice, by consulting the tutors and methods of past eras. These historical sources provide valuable information on fingerings, and on how to perform figures, ornaments, crescendos, etc.

The History of Musical Instruments [Microform] : Manuals, Tutors and Méthodes. Reading, England ; Woodbridge, CT : Research Publications, 1988 [Micro 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, **reels 4, 5 & 6 of Part 1, contain treatises dealing with brass instruments: see reels 24 & 25 of Part 2**. Each Part has its own printed index, located in the Music Reference area. [Ref MT 172.H477 1988]

Part 1. Instrumental Tutors from the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments, Oxford and the private library of Philip Bate (10 reels). Brass instrument tutors will be found on reels # 4, 5 and 6 of this series.

Part 2. Tutors and Méthodes from the F.J. Fétis Collection at the Bibliotheque Royale Albert Ier, Brussels (26 reels). Brass tutors will be found on reels # 24 & 25 of this series.

RECORDINGS of brass ensemble music

Although most of the Music Library's sound recordings can be found via the **Western Libraries Catalogue**, many others cannot. Most commercially-recorded brass ensemble music for which you know the composer and the title may be found via a **KEYWORD** search:

- type single, significant keywords (e.g. the composer's [or performer's] surname)
- include a significant word from the title of the work (preferably in the original language of composition)
- include the opus number (numerals only)
- include "sound" or "compact"

These search 'tips' will also assist you to find audio in our subscribed online products, eg. NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY and DRAM [please omit the KEYWORD "compact" for these online products!].

Very recent recordings may not yet be ordered – please check with the Reference Librarian.

If you are looking for every recording by a particular performer (or ensemble) you may also wish to search his/her name as an Author,

e.g. **Reinhart, Carole Dawn**

- or -

Annapolis Brass Quintet (name of ensemble)

- or -

Convocation Brass

In addition to commercially-produced recordings, there are hundreds of 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 near the first row of the Reference Section – on the window ledge. Should you find a performance you would like 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, and ask that he place the tape at the Music Library. He will then leave the tape with the staff at the 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 FoM performances **only**) by applying at the Faculty of Music Main Office (T.C. 210).

RELATED HANDOUTS

**Euphonium
Horn
Piano Ensembles
Trombone
Trumpet
Tuba
Woodwind Ensembles**

Prepared by:

Jane A. Pearce Baldwin
Music Reference Librarian
rev. September 1988

Revised by:

Lisa Rae Philpott
Music Reference Librarian
rev. August, 2013