Finding music for ORGAN in Western’s Music Library

With a little patience and ingenuity, much music for organ can be located in Western’s Music Library. Some of it will be found in obvious locations, while other important repertoire is scattered throughout the collection. Of special interest to organists is The Solo Reference Collection (see No. 5 below).

1. Finding a KNOWN piece of music - by KEYWORD

Any piece of music for which you know the composer’s name and part of the title may be found in the Western Libraries - Shared Library Catalogue at: www.lib.uwo.ca

Choose the KEYWORD (also known as 'Boolean') option of the Catalogue: combining the composer’s name with a unique title, opus number, or thematic catalogue number will help to narrow your search, and find desired items quickly:

* e.g., Bach Sebastian, 345

* will retrieve circulating copies of Bach’s Orgelbuechlein, in both printed and recorded versions. [Items contained within the “collected works” volumes will NOT be retrieved – see no. 4, below.]

* or, if you seek sonatas:

  Bach Sebastian (sonatas organ)

  (MODIFY your search, then LIMIT by MATERIAL TYPE = “Printed Music”)

Note the use of the PLURAL OF THE GENRE - sonataS - the use of the plural is required to find scores and/or recordings.

If you are unsure of titles, opus or thematic numbers, refer to the various repertoire guides listed below or to the article on the composer in The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, 2nd ed. (29 vols). You may also consult the online version of NG-II.

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. BROWSING the SHELVES for music

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

* M 6 - 19 organ alone

Some of the more useful areas for browsing are:

* M 8 sonatas

* M 10 fugues with or without preludes

* M 12 collections of organ music

* M 180 - 181 one or more organs, two or more players
M 182 - 186  
organ + one other instrument

M 1005  
organ with full orchestra, concertos

M 1006  
organ with second keyboard reduction (concertos, etc.)

M 1108  
organ with strings, concertos

M 1109  
organ with second keyboard reduction (concertos, etc.) for organ and strings

MT 180  
studies, methods, technique, etc.)

MT 208  
informative editions

MT 187  
organ with full orchestra, concertos

MT 188  
pedal techniques

For a complete explanation of these call numbers and other call numbers, see the book LC Classification/Class M, Music located near the Reference Desk.

3. SEARCH by SUBJECT  
(Library of Congress)

Particular types of organ music will be easily found using the Subject index of the catalogues.

*** WARNING !!! ***

If you use the Subject Heading "ORGAN MUSIC" you will find miscellaneous solo works only.

Most music will be found under the specific genre, e.g.

SONATAS (ORGAN)
SUITES (ORGAN)
**CANONS, FUGUES, etc. (ORGAN)

** (note that neither LC - nor Western Libraries - uses the Subject Heading FUGUES or PRELUDES AND FUGUES)

CONCERTOS (ORGAN)
CONCERTOS (ORGAN) – SOLO WITH PIANO

Other useful Subject Headings include:

ORGAN – INSTRUCTION AND STUDY
ORGAN – STUDIES AND EXERCISES, etc.

Subject Headings are assigned by cataloguers. As "controlled vocabulary" they are an extremely efficient means of finding specific information - or music for a standard ensemble.

For a more complete listing of the Subject Headings employed in the Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue, see our copy of Library of Congress Subject Headings (5 large red volumes – please ask if you wish to see them).

4. ORGAN MUSIC in COLLECTIONS:

Collected Sets, Complete Works, anthologies, monumenta and Denkmäler, etc.

A large selection of fine literature for the organ consists of renaissance and baroque music that is not listed individually in the library's catalogues. Examples are works included in Organum and Das Erbe Deutscher Musik. F.Y.I. - the Neue Ausgabe sämtlicher Werke edition of J.S. Bach's complete works falls into this same category. For access to this important body of literature consult the "Works" lists of individual composers in the New Grove Dictionary of Music, or the handout Collected Sets, Complete Works, etc.

5. ENSEMBLES using the organ

For information on this topic, consult the handouts on the various ensembles (i.e., String, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, and Piano).

6. Organ music found in the Solo Music Reference Collection

Much unusual and twentieth-century music for the organ may be found in the Solo Music Reference Collection housed in the Choral/Band/Orchestral library.

For information on, and access to the collection see the handout Using the Solo Music Reference Collection.

The general classification for organ music in the SMRC is

MUS 4006

and the collection is organized by composers' surnames.
**REPERTOIRE lists**

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


*Organ Music in Print.* The physical volumes of this series are now in storage, but their contents are included within the *Music-in-Print* series.

Now online, the *Music-in-Print Series* is available to currently-registered students, faculty and staff.

Canadian Music Centre. *Catalogue of Canadian Keyboard Music = Catalogue de Musique Canadienne à Clavier*. Toronto: CMC, 1971-. Ref ML 128.P3 C26 + suppl. Lists Canadian works for piano, harpsichord, and organ on deposit at the CMC.


The organist may also wish to consult the bibliographies of church music found in the area Ref ML 128.C54.

**PERIODICALS for ORGANISTS**

Periodicals? Serials? Journals? Western’s Music Library subscribes to many periodicals of interest to organists. Included are:

*The Organ Yearbook*

*Organ Canada*

*Bach Jahrbuch*

*American Organist*

*Ars organi*

*Choir & Organ*

*Diapason*

*Early Music*

*Early Keyboard Journal*

For holdings and the call numbers for these and other periodicals search by TITLE in the Western Libraries Catalogue. See the Music Library's related handout *Periodical Literature*.

Recent periodical literature on the organ and organ music can be found by searching several online indexes: *The Music Index, IIMP* or *RILM* are recommended. You will find these databases listed under the *Research* tab on
the Western Libraries main web-page located at: www.lib.uwo.ca

Click on Research, then Databases, and then select the appropriate letter of the alphabet to locate the desired database.

**HISTORY of the ORGAN and ORGAN MUSIC**


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:


you must search the library catalogue for the FULL title (as represented by the acronym “JASA”): *Journal of the American Society of Acoustics*.

This book may also be of interest:


A major revision of the article on the organ in the *New Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments* (1980) this monograph has many features not in that edition of the dictionary. Included are appendices on registration, stops, a glossary of terms, an index of organ builders, as well as an extensive bibliography and full indexing.

**RECORDINGS of ORGAN MUSIC**

Although most of the Music Library’s sound recordings can be found via the Western Libraries - Shared Library Catalogue, many others cannot. Most commercially-recorded piano music for which you know the composer and the title may be found by using the KEYWORD search in the Western Libraries-Shared Library Catalogue: type single significant words from the title, the PLURAL of the genre, the composer’s surname and “compact” to find CDs only).

If you are interested in historical performances by a particular performer, and do not mind listening to black vinyl LPs, substitute "sound" for "compact." (N.B. Our LPs are presently in storage, but can be requested via the Library Catalogue.)

If you do not know how to operate a turntable, library staff will be happy to demonstrate.

If you seek a recording by a particular artist, you may type his/her name following the Author command:

- e.g. **MCLEAN, HUGH**
- **UNGER, MICHAEL**
- **ALAIN, MARIE-CLAIRE**
- **SCHWEITZER, ALBERT**
- **CHAPUIS, MICHEL**

**KEYWORD** searching is the most effective way to quickly find a desired recording: type single, significant keywords such as: composer's surname, performer's surname, a significant word from the title of the work, a thematic catalogue number, plus sound – or "compact" (to retrieve CDs ONLY), etc.).

- e.g. **Bach Hurford 538 compact**

To locate recent recordings Western Libraries- Shared Library Catalogue (after
first checking the catalogue – by Author (i.e. performer)), consult the Reference Librarian – the item may not yet be ordered. (fyi – we do accept suggestions, but the turn-around time can be rather lengthy.)

**PERFORMANCE PRACTICE**

Information on ‘how to play’ an instrument is frequently found in method books; organ methods and studies will be easily-found via this Subject Heading:

Organ (Musical Instrument) – Methods

Organ (Musical instrument) – Studies and exercises

e.g. Gleason, Harold and Catherine Crozier
Gleason.  *Method of organ playing.*

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:


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 10, contains treatises dealing with keyboard; Part 2, reels 17-20 contains 33 tutors for organ. 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 methods from the F.J. Fétis Collection at the Bibliothèque Royale Albert I”, 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 Donington, Kivy and Leppard

- Search the Libraries Catalogue by SUBJECT: performance practice

**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 from 1965 – the present. Until 1989, 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 the last row of the Music Library's Reference Section, near the Reference Desk. 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 – which will look like:

81-148c

81 = 1981

148 = the 148th recital taped that year

c = the 3rd work on the program

and ask that he place a copy of the recording in the Music Library. He will then leave the tape at the Music Library Circulation Desk: you may listen to same, upon surrender of appropriate identification.

Dubbing is NOT permitted in the Music Library, but you can make arrangements to purchase copies of Don Wright Faculty of Music Recital Tapes (only) by applying at the Don Wright Faculty of Music – Main Office (T.C. 210).
RELATED HANDOUTS

Collected Sets, Complete Works, etc.

Piano Ensembles

Using the Solo Music Reference Catalogue

Prepared by: Jane A. Pearce Baldwin
Music Reference Librarian
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Revised by: Lisa Rae Philpott
Music Reference Librarian
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