Finding Music for Piano in Chamber Ensembles in Western's Music Library

Much of the music in Western’s Music Library is for piano 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’s name and the title of the work 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 Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue: combine the composer’s name with a unique title, opus number, and/or thematic catalogue number.

E.g. brahms 87 parts

should retrieve all performing editions (as in “score and parts”) of Brahms’s opus 87 piano trio - as owned by the Western University’s 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. - also available ONLINE).

NEVER USE AUTHOR or TITLE to search for music, especially NOT for “prolific” composers! The exception? Use Author ONLY to ascertain the correct spelling of a composer’s name!

The Music Library’s books, recordings and scores are listed on the Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue, which is accessible from home, via a PC and an Internet service provider.

Each currently-registered Western student, staff and faculty member receives a Western Personal Computing account, through which address (ONLY) the University and the Western Libraries communicate with you.

Your login name and password are REQUIRED to access our licensed electronic indexes and database subscriptions.

2. Piano with ONE OTHER instrument

For information on this topic, consult the handouts on individual instruments, e.g. Flute, Viola, Trombone, Oboe, etc.

3. Searching by SUBJECT to find music for piano in ensembles

A Subject search - using the appropriate Subject Heading is the most efficient means of finding ALL musical works written for one particular genre. Note that the accompanying keyboard instrument is almost always listed FIRST in chamber duos (as in the following examples).

SONATAS (VIOLIN AND PIANO)
RONDOS (FLUTE AND ORGAN)
SUITEs (BASSOON AND CONTINUO)

However, the keyboard instrument is always listed FIRST when there are more than two instruments in the ensemble:

QUINTETS (PIANO, BASSOON, CLARINET, HORN, OBOE)
TRIOS (PIANO, CLARINET, VIOLA)

SEXTETS  (PIANO, HORN, VIOLINS (2), VIOLA, VIOLONCELLO)

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

keyboard

winds  (includes both woodwinds and brasses, sub-arranged alphabetically)

percussion

strings – arranged in score 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 correct order (as explained above).

4. **BROWSING on the shelf for piano chamber music**

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

M 312  –  piano trios
M 412  –  piano quartets
M 512  –  piano quintets

It is considered unnecessary to list the instrumentation for these combinations, as the user knows that a piano trio consists of piano, violin, and violoncello; the piano quartet is made up of piano and string trio (violin, viola, and violoncello); and the piano quintet invariably consists of piano plus string quartet (two violins, viola and violoncello).

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

5. **PIANO with ORGAN**

Music for piano and organ will be found at

M 184.

6. **PIANO with PIANO(S) and pianists**

Four-hands piano repertoire (as in music for two players performing on one piano) will be found at the following classifications:

M 200 - misc. compositions
M 201 - original compositions
M 202 - sonatas
M 203 - suites
M 204 - pieces

M 207 - 210 - 4-hands arrangements (including arrangements from solo piano, operas, ballets, orchestral music and concertos)

M 205 - piano, 3-hands
M 213 - piano, 5 (or more) hands

Duo-piano repertoire (as in music for two pianos) will be found at the following classifications:

M 214 - original compositions, two-pianos
M 215 - arrangements for two pianos

while music for 2 (or more) pianos AND three (or more players) will be found at:

M 216

**REPERTOIRE LISTS**

For assistance in identifying appropriate repertoire for chamber ensembles using piano, the following reference sources are very useful:


This extensive annotated guide to the piano chamber music literature includes information on level of difficulty.


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


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.


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


A useful listing 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.

Much ensemble literature may also be found using the repertoire lists for individual instruments.

**HISTORY of chamber 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. 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.

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.

**NEVER USE AUTHOR or TITLE to search for music, especially NOT for “prolific” composers!**

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. *Chamber Music Journal*

Some particularly useful titles include:


**PERFORMING PRACTICE**

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


A practical guide to all aspects of Baroque music performance.


**RECORDINGS of piano chamber music**

Although most of the Music Library’s sound recordings can be found via the Western Libraries Catalogue, many others cannot. Most commercially-recorded piano music for which you know both the composer’s name 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"
- if you seek recordings with multiple pianos, be sure to specify **PIANOS**

If you seek every recording by a particular performer (or ensemble) that the Music Library owns, you may type that name as an **Author**,

- **Laredo, Ruth Schiff, Andras**
- **Consortium Classicum** (name of ensemble)
- **Duo Crommelynck**
- **Duo-Modern**
- **Brandon University Trio**
- **Quartet Canada**

**Don Wright Faculty of Music RECITALS**

In addition to commercially-produced recordings, there are hundreds of **Western / 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 the Don Wright Faculty of Music’s recordings archive is provided by computer-generated indexes housed in the LAST row of the Reference Section – nearest the Reference Librarian. 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 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 Faculty of Music Main Office (T.C. 210).

**HIDDEN TREASURES**

Despite the fact that the majority of our chamber music collection will be found within the Music Library, there are pockets of interesting repertoire that are NOT listed on the Western Libraries Catalogue, and are thus “hidden” from all but the most diligent chamber music devotees. One such collection of particular interest to pianists is:

- **The Cobbett Collection** - is housed off-site, with a spreadsheet catalogue at:
  - [http://www.lib.uwo.ca/music/Cobbett.html](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/music/Cobbett.html)

This is not a browse-able collection (i.e. you cannot go and visit this physical location) but currently-registered Western students, staff and faculty may peruse the catalogue, and request photocopies (at a nominal charge) for out-of-print titles only. (Sorry - speedy turnaround times cannot be guaranteed.)

**RELATED HANDOUTS**

- **Piano**
- **String Ensembles**
- Handouts for individual orchestral instruments

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