

PIANO ENSEMBLES

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.

Off-Campus Access

Username:

Password:

Your Western login is your gateway to our online resources, anywhere in the world.

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 **LAST** 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:

Hinson, Maurice. *The Piano in Chamber Ensemble: An Annotated Guide*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1978. REF ML 128.C4 H53

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

Maxwell, Grant L. *Music for Three or More Pianists: A Historical Survey and Catalogue*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1991. ML700.M39 1993

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.

Cohn, Arthur. *The literature of chamber music*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Hinshaw Music, 1997. REF ML128.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 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

For detailed and scholarly information on the history of 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 – the Western Libraries 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**.

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:

Baron, John H. *Chamber Music: A Research and Information Guide*. New York: Garland, 1987. **REF ML 128.C4 B37 1987**

Baron, John H. *Intimate music : a history of the idea of chamber music*. Stuyvesant, NY : Pendragon Press, 1998. **ML 1100.B36 1998**

Hefling, Stephen E. *Nineteenth-century Chamber Music*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1998. **ML 1104.N56 1998]**

King, A. Hyatt. *Chamber Music*. London: Chanticleer Press, 1943. **ML 1100.K4**

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

Ulrich, Homer. *Chamber Music*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1966. **[ML 1100.U57 1966]**

PERFORMING PRACTICE

Historically-informed performance is an ongoing consideration for all performers. Following are titles which may prove useful to chamber 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. **ML457.P477 1997**

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>

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

Prepared by:

Jane A. Pearce Baldwin
Music Reference Librarian
September 1985

Revised by:

Lisa Rae Philpott
Music Reference Librarian
November 2014