FINDING MUSIC FOR THE VIOLIN IN THE WESTERN LIBRARIES’ MUSIC LIBRARY

The Western Libraries Music Library contains a wealth of music for the violin major. Some of this repertoire 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 found by looking in the Western Libraries 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, and/or thematic catalogue number, remembering to use “AND” between your keywords.

E.g. Mozart and violin and 207 and part should retrieve Mozart’s B-flat major Violin Concerto, K. 207

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.)

The Western Libraries Catalogue is accessible from home. See the following address for details and instructions:

http://www.lib.uwo.ca/offcampus/

BROWSING on the shelf for music

Browsing is a legitimate searching technique...you just need to know the 'geography' of the classification system. Most, but not all, violin music can be found in the following areas:

M 40 - 44 (violin alone with no accompaniment)
M 217 - 223 (violin with piano or continuo)
M 219 (violin sonatas)
M 1012 (violin with full orchestra, concertos, etc.)
M 1013 (violin with piano reduction of orchestral part for concertos, etc.)
M 1112 (violin with string orchestra, concertos, etc.)
M 1113 (violin with piano reduction of string orchestra part)
MT 260 - 279 (studies, methods, and techniques for violin)
MT 266 (orchestral excerpts)

For a complete explanation of these call numbers and others, see the four large, red volumes: LC Classification/Class M, Music located near the Music Library’s Reference Desk.

3. Using the SUBJECT index

Particular types of violin music will be easily found using the Subject Search of the Western 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 specific types of works (as in a distinctive instrumentation) in our library, you must use the same Subject Headings that the cataloguers use!

***WARNING***

If you use the subject heading "VIOLIN MUSIC" you will find miscellaneous solo works only.

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

- **SONATAS (VIOLIN AND PIANO)**
- **SUITES (VIOLIN AND CONTINUO)**
- **CONCERTOS (VIOLIN)** [full score and recordings]
- **CONCERTOS (VIOLIN) -- SOLO WITH PIANO**
- **CONCERTOS (VIOLIN WITH STRING ORCHESTRA)**

Other useful Subject Headings are:

- **VIOLIN -- INSTRUCTION AND STUDY**
- **VIOLIN -- STUDIES AND EXERCISES**
- **VIOLIN -- ORCHESTRA STUDIES**

Accustom yourself to looking for the specific genre and instrumentation when using the subject index.

For a complete listing of the Subject Headings employed in the UWO libraries, see *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (5 large red volumes) located near the Reference Desk.

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4. **Ensembles using the violin**

For information on this topic, consult the handouts *String ensembles* and *Piano ensembles*.

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5. **Violin music found in the Solo Music Reference Collection**

Much unusual and twentieth-century music for the violin may be found in the Solo Music Reference Collection housed in the Choral/Band/Orchestral Library. For information on Catalogues and access to the collection see the handout *Using the Solo Music Reference*.

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**Collection.** The general classification for violin music in the SMRC is

**MUS 4040**

**REPERTOIRE LISTS**

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


  A classified list of solo, study, and chamber works. Includes stringed instruments with voice and stringed instruments with electronic tape.


  Includes an annotated list with "brief remarks concerning the difficulty and general characteristics of each work."


A mammoth work that lists 8400 concertos with brief formalized descriptions of 2600 concertos.


This work also includes solo works for instrumentalists.

### PERIODICALS FOR VIOLINISTS

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

- *The Strad*
- *American String Teacher*
- *International Musician*
- *Early Music*
- *Orchestra Canada*
- *Historical Performance*

For holdings and the call numbers of these and other periodicals consult the Western Libraries Catalogue – [www.lib.uwo.ca](http://www.lib.uwo.ca). See the related Music Library print handout: *Periodical Literature* and also *How Do I Find Articles?* available online via this url:

http://www.lib.uwo.ca/help/index.php?id=51

### HISTORY OF THE VIOLIN AND VIOLIN 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 periodical (**NOT** the title of the article!) in the Western Libraries Catalogue,

- e.g. Orchestra Canada

Another excellent starting-point for all manner of violin information is this recent bibliography:


Through sensible divisions: Reference and General Studies; Acoustics and Construction; Playing and Performance Practice; Violin Music; Violinists, Violinist-Composers, and Violin Teachers, Katz tackles this mammoth project and organizes it admirably. Includes indexes: author, name, and subject.

The following book may also be of interest:


Contains essays on history, acoustics, violin bows, fingerings, repertoire and performing practice. Also has an Appendix which lists principal violin treatises.

### PERFORMING PRACTICE

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


A practical guide to all aspects of Baroque music performance.


...PERFORMING PRACTICE
(cont’d)

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. Sources of particular interest to violinists, held at Western’s Music Library include:


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 2-4, Part 1, contain treatises dealing with bowed instruments. 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 Ier, Brussels (26 reels).

RECORDINGS for violinists

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

• type single, significant keywords (e.g. the performer's [or composer's] surname
• include a significant word from the title of the work
• include the opus number (numerals/digits only)
• include "sound" or "compact"
• be sure to type "AND" between each keyword

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

If you are looking for a recording by a particular performer, you may type his/her name as an AUTHOR:

  e.g. Heifetz, Jascha

In addition to commercially-produced recordings, there are hundreds of Western 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 recording for each and every Western 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 recording’s reference number - which will look like:

81-148c

81 = 1981
148 = the 148th recital taped that year
 c = the 3rd work on the program

Mention that you wish to hear this item, and ask Mr. Godwin to place the recording in the Library. He will then leave the item 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 by applying at the Faculty of Music Main Office (T.C. 210).

RELATED HANDOUTS

Using the Solo Music Reference Catalogue
String ensembles
Piano ensembles

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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