

# VIOLIN

(Fr. *violon* ; Ger. *Violine*, *Geige* ; It. *violino*)

## FINDING MUSIC FOR VIOLIN IN THE 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 Printed Music

Any piece of music for which you know both the composer and the title may be found by choosing the **CATALOGUE** tab on the Western Libraries homepage: [www.lib.uwo.ca](http://www.lib.uwo.ca)

Choose the **KEYWORD** search option to combine the composer's name with a unique title, opus number, or thematic catalogue number. Use spaces between your keywords (using a space = the Boolean "AND" operator). This will help to narrow your search and find desired items quickly.

#### *E.g.* Mozart violin 207 part

*should* retrieve Mozart's B-flat major Violin Concerto, K. 207, specifically the version for piano + a part for violin

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

Don't forget to look in collections of music by your composer (the library finds it cheaper and more convenient to buy all of the sonatas of a composer in one volume, than to purchase single sonatas, etc.). The Music Library's holdings are listed on the **Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue**, which is accessible from almost anywhere in the world. Each Western student is given a Western Identity (email username + password), through which the University and Western Libraries will communicate with you. Your Western Identity username and password are **REQUIRED** to access our licensed electronic indexes and database subscriptions.

To use Western's subscribed e-resources while off-campus, you must **AUTHENTICATE** each time you visit the Western Libraries website. Follow this URL for details and instructions:

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/offcampus/remote.html>

### 2. 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.

#### **N.B.**

MUCH of our collection of printed music is in storage. Be sure to check the Western Libraries Catalogue to locate desired titles: turnaround time for storage requests is 2-3 business days.

### 3. Using the SUBJECT index

Particular types of violin music will be easily found using the **Subject index** of the **Western Libraries Catalogue**.

### \*\*\*WARNING\*\*\*

If you use the Subject Heading "VIOLIN MUSIC" you will find **miscellaneous** solo works only. Most music will be found under a specific genre, using CONTROLLED VOCABULARY, via these (and other) specific Subject Searches.

Eg.

**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**  
*etc.*

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 Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue, see **Library of Congress Subject Headings** (5 large red volumes) located near the Reference Desk.

## 4. Ensembles using the violin

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

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

# MUS 4040

## 6. IMSLP = International Music Score Library Project

You may wonder **why** IMSLP is listed as the 6<sup>th</sup> option on this handout? Much as we love its convenience, IMSLP should NOT be your first choice for repertoire. In order for music to be available in the Public Domain (i.e. "free"), it must be:

- an OLD edition (not "new" scholarship!)
- no longer copyright-protected
- free (sadly, you DO get what you pay for)

Your free music:

- may be out-dated
- may contain errors (wrong notes, missing slurs, etc.)
- may lack rehearsal letters, measure numbers
- may contain old, (now) little-used clefs
- may have impossible page-turns
- will NOT be an "urtext"

## 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:

Farish, Margaret K. **String Music in Print**. 2nd ed. New York: Bowker, 1973.  
[Ref ML128.S7 F4 1973 + Supplements at Ref ML118.M956 v.6 suppl. + ML118.M956 v.6t suppl. 1998]

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

Wilkins, Wayne. **The Index of Violin Music**. Magnolia, Ark.: The Music Register, 1973.  
Ref ML128.V4 W5 +Supplements

Shand, Patricia Martin. **A Guide to Published Canadian Violin Music Suitable for Student Performers**. Toronto: Canadian Music Centre in co-operation with the Canadian Music Educator, 1993.  
Ref ML132.V5S43 1993

Edlund, Harry. **Music for Solo Violin Unaccompanied : A Catalogue of Published and Unpublished Works From Seventeenth Century to 1989**. High Wycombe, Bucks: Peter Marcan Publications, 1989.  
Ref ML128.V4E44 1989

Landsman, Johnson, Rose-Marie. **Violin Music by Women Composers: A Bio-biographical Guide**. New York: Greenwood Press, 1989.  
Ref ML128.W7J63 1989

Geesaman, Virginia Harold. **"Twentieth-Century Literature for Unaccompanied Violin: 1900-1970."** Ph.D. diss., University of Iowa, 1973.  
Ref ML128.V4 G44

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

Marcan, Peter. *Music for Solo Violin Unaccompanied: A Performer's Guide to the Published Literature of the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. [S.l.]: Peter Marcan Publications, 1983.  
Ref ML128.V4 M3 1983

Toskey, Burnett R. *Concertos for Violin and Viola: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia*. Seattle: Writers Publishing Service, 1983.  
Ref ML128.V4 T68 1983]

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

Canadian Music Centre. *Canadian Chamber Music=Musique de Chambre Canadienne*. [s.l.]: CMC, 1980.  
Ref ML128.C4 C34 1980

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). Remember to use a “Journal Title” search.

## HISTORY OF THE VIOLIN AND VIOLIN MUSIC

For detailed and scholarly information on the history of the violin, members of the violin family and the violin repertory, consult the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 29 vols. (London: Macmillan, 2001). [Located on the Dictionary Table, and online.] The extensive bibliography (listed in chronological order) cites books and journal articles on the violin – 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.

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*

Riggs, Robert. *The Violin*. Rochester, NY, USA : University of Rochester Press, 2016.  
ML800.V5 2016

Interesting collection of essays by Riggs, and others. Of special interest: The Violin Concerto in the Twentieth Century, and “The Master’s Voice: Recordings as Documentation of Performance Practice. There are lots of footnotes to direct you to further sources of interest!

Schoenbaum, Richard. *The Violin : A Social History of the World's Most Versatile Instrument*. New York, NY : W.W. Norton & Company, c2013.  
ML800.S326 2013

Seven hundred pages (of which nearly one hundred pages are occupied by footnotes) to cover the history of the ubiquitous violin? Seems about right!

Divided into 4 books: Making It; Selling It; Playing It; and Imagining It, the author provides a wealth of information about the world of the violin: makers, dealers, auctioneers, performers, and a glimpse into the world of verifying a violin’s provenance and maker. Includes an index, and photographs (both colour and black-and-white). Fascinating reading for anyone interested in the violin and its history.

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

Katz, Mark. *The Violin: A Research and Information Guide*. New York: Taylor & Francis, 2006.  
Ref ML128.V4 K38 2006

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:

Stowell, Robin. *The Cambridge Companion to the Violin*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.  
ML800.C35 1992

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

## PERFORMING PRACTICE

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

Cyr, Mary. *Performing Baroque Music*. Portland, Or. : Amadeus Press, 1992.  
ML457.C9 1992

A practical guide to all aspects of Baroque music performance.

## ...PERFORMING PRACTICE

Hefling, Stephen E. *Rhythmic Alteration in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-century Music : Notes Inégales and Overdotting*. New York : Schirmer Books, 1993.  
**ML437.H43 1993**

Carter, Stewart (ed.) *A Performer's Guide to Seventeenth-century Music*. New York : Schirmer Books, c1997.  
**ML457.P477 1997**

Stowell, Robin. *Violin Technique and Performance Practice in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.  
**ML855.S8 1985**

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:

Mozart, Leopold. *A Treatise on the Fundamental Principles of Violin Playing*, translated by Editha Knocker. Oxford ; Toronto : Oxford University Press, 1985, c1948.  
**MT262.M68 1985**

Stowell, Robin. *The Early Violin and Viola : A Practical Guide*. Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2001.  
**ML855.S79 2001**

*The History of Musical Instruments [Microform] : Manuals, Tutors and Méthodes*. Reading, England ; Woodbridge, CT : Research Publications, 1988  
**MT172.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 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 methodes from the F.J. Féti's 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] **name** or surname)
- include one significant word from the title of the work (do not type entire title - see LAST bullet)
- include the opus **number** (numerals/digits only)
- include **sound** or **compact**
- "enclose titles of works in quotation marks"

Very recent recordings may not yet be ordered – please check with the Director of the Music Library.

If you seek a recording by a particular performer, you may type his/her name in an **AUTHOR** search:

e.g. **Heifetz, Jascha**

In addition to commercially-produced recordings, there are hundreds of 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 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 148<sup>th</sup> recital taped that year**

**c = the 3<sup>rd</sup> work on the program**

Include your email address, and mention that you wish to hear this item; you will likely receive a link to a streamed audio file. Or, for a fee, you may make arrangements to purchase copies (of FoM performances **only**) on compact disc by applying at the Faculty of Music Main Office (T.C. 210).

## RELATED HANDOUTS

*Using the Solo Music Reference Catalogue  
String Ensembles  
Piano Ensembles*

Created by: **Jane Ann Pearce Baldwin**  
Music Reference Librarian  
rev. September 1988

Revised by: **Lisa Rae Philpott**  
Teaching & Learning Librarian  
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