



(Fr. *alto* ; Ger. *Bratsche*)

VIOLA

FINDING MUSIC FOR THE VIOLA IN THE Western Libraries MUSIC LIBRARY

The Music Library, Western Libraries, contains a wealth of music for the viola major. Some of this repertoire will be found in obvious locations, while other important music is scattered through the collection.

1. Finding a KNOWN piece of music

Any piece of music for which you know the composer and the title may be searched in the **Western Libraries CATALOGUE** at 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, with the word **AND** in-between your KEYWORDS. This will help to narrow your search, and find desired items quickly:

e.g. Hindemith and sonatas and viola

should retrieve Hindemith's viola sonata - both scores and recordings (note the use of the PLURAL OF THE GENRE- sonata**S** - the plural is REQUIRED to find scores and recordings!).

e.g. concertoS** and viola and part** will retrieve those editions (piano reductions) which come with a separate viola part

If you are unsure of titles, opus or thematic catalogue numbers, refer to the repertoire guides listed below or consult "**Works**" lists in articles on individual composers in **The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians** (29 vols.). (This resource is also available online to registered Western students, faculty, and staff.)

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.*).

In addition, each currently-registered student receives a Western Identity, through which email address (ONLY) will the University and the Western Libraries communicate with you. Your Western Identity login and password are REQUIRED to access GROVEMUSIC, NAXOS and other online subscriptions. Your WesternOne card = your Western Library Card.

2. BROWSING on the shelf for music

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

- M 45 - 49** (viola alone with no accompaniment)
- M 224 - 228** (viola with piano or continuo)
- M 1014** (viola with full orchestra, concertos, *etc.*)
- M 1015** (viola with piano reduction of orchestral part for concertos, *etc.*)
- M 1114** (viola with string orchestra, concertos, *etc.*)
- M 1115** (viola with piano reduction of string orchestra part)
- MT 280 - 298** (studies, methods, and technique for viola)
- MT 286** (orchestra studies)

For a complete explanation of these call numbers and other call numbers, please see the book **LC Classification/Class M, Music** located on (or near - in Quick Reference) the Reference/Service Desk.

3. Using the SUBJECT index

Particular types of viola music will be easily found using the subject index of the catalogues.
WARNING -- if you use the subject heading "VIOLA MUSIC" you will find **miscellaneous** solo works only. Most music will be found under the specific genre, e.g.

SONATAS (VIOLA AND PIANO)

SUITES (VIOLA AND CONTINUO)

CONCERTOS (VIOLA)

CONCERTOS (VIOLA) – SOLO WITH PIANO

CONCERTOS (VIOLA WITH STRING ORCHESTRA)

Other useful Subject Headings are:

VIOLA – INSTRUCTION AND STUDY

VIOLA – STUDIES AND EXERCISES

VIOLA – 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, see *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, 5 large red volumes, located near the Reference Desk.

4. ENSEMBLES using the viola

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

5. VIOLA MUSIC found in the Solo Music Reference Collection

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

The general classification for viola music in the SMRC is

MUS 4045.

REPERTOIRE LISTS

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

Music-in-print series [online] / Donald Reese, compiler. Roslyn, PA. : emusicquest, [2002]-

Because of licensing constraints, you must still consult the next title (in print, in Music Reference).

Farish, Margaret K. *String Music in Print*. 2nd ed. New York: Bowker, 1973. [Ref ML 128.S7 F4 + Supplement at Ref ML 118.M956 v.6 suppl. + ML 118.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. Williams, Michael D. *Music for Viola. Detroit Studies in Music Bibliography, no. 42*. Detroit: Information Coordinators, 1979. [Ref ML 128.V36 W53] Includes viola with "electronics".

Zeyringer, Franz. *Literatur für Viola*. 3rd ed. Hartberg: Julius Schonwetter, 1976. [Ref ML 128.V36 Z48 1976]

This guide includes lists of music for solo viola as well as viola in combination with other instruments and voice. Nicely-laid-out: don't be put-off by the fact that this one is written in German!

Toskey, Burnett E. *Concertos for Violin and Viola: A Comprehensive Encyclopedia*. Seattle: Writers Publishing Service, 1983. [Ref ML 128.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 ML 128.C4 C34 1980]

This work also includes solo works for instrumentalists.

Canadian Music Centre. *Canadian Music for Viola = Musique Canadienne pour Alto*. Toronto: The Centre, 1981. [Ref ML 128.V36 C35]

See also: www.musiccentre.ca

Bereck, Heinz. *Viola D'Amore: Bibliographie*. Kassel, W. Germany: Barenreiter Verlag, 1986. [Ref ML 128.V38B47 1986]

Wilkins, Wayne. *The Index of Viola Music*. Magnolia, Ark.: Music Register, 1978 [Ref ML 128.V36 W5]

Weaver, Michael Alan. *Works for the Viola by Pulitzer Prize Winning Composers : An Annotated Bibliography*. Lewiston, NY : Edwin Mellen Press, 2006. [Ref ML 128.V36W43 2006]

PERIODICALS FOR VIOLISTS

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

Strad *Early Music*

American String Teacher

Orchestra Canada – becomes *OC News* (1998-)

International Musician (A F of M)

Historical Performance

For holdings and call numbers of these and other periodicals consult the **Western Libraries Catalogue** - using the JOURNAL TITLE search.

See the related handout *Periodical Literature*.

HISTORY OF THE VIOLA AND VIOLA MUSIC

For detailed and scholarly information on the history of the viola, members of the viola family and the viola repertory, consult 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 on the violin – Western's 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**,

The following book may also be of interest:

Riley, Maurice W. ***The History of the Viola***.
United States: s.n., 1993. [ML 900.R43 1993]

PERFORMING PRACTICE

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

Cyr, Mary. ***Performing baroque music***. Portland, Or. : Amadeus Press, 1992. ML457.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. 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. ML 855.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, 1967. MT 262.M68 1967

Stowell, Robin. ***The early violin and viola : a practical guide***. Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2001. ML 855.S79 2001 (and, in E-BOOK format!)

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 méthodes from the F.J. Fétis Collection at the Bibliothèque Royale Albert Ier, Brussels (26 reels).

RECORDINGS of viola 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 viola 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 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. **Primrose, William**

The Music Library now has a subscription to **NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY** (online). Registered students, staff and faculty can access this service from home, by logging-in to OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS at www.lib.uwo.ca (at the upper L.H. side of the screen) and then using the Shared Library Catalogue to search for NAXOS MUSIC LIBRARY. You can create your own listening lists - or access class listening play-lists that your professors have created for you.

Don Wright Faculty of Music RECITALS

In addition to commercially-produced recordings, there are hundreds of **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 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 of Don Wright Faculty of Music recordings is NOT permitted in the Music Library, but you can make arrangements to purchase copies by applying at the Reception Desk - of the Faculty of Music's Main Office (T.C. 210).

RELATED HANDOUTS

STRING ENSEMBLES

PIANO ENSEMBLES

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