

Subject Guide to Music

Browsing the Music Collection

In the main library of the Roberts-LaForge Library the Library of Congress call number classification letter for music is M. In the Instructional Resources Center (IRC) the Dewey Decimal call number range for music is 780-789. In the event you do not find what you are looking for by simply browsing, please consult the online catalog. Below are general classification schemes for music in the Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal classification systems.

<i>Main Library, Roberts-LaForge Library:</i>		<i>IRC, Roberts-LaForge Library:</i>	
M 1-5000	Music (collections and genres)	016.78	Bibliographies in music
ML 1-3930	Literature on music	372.87	Elementary education in music
MT 1-960	Musical instruction and study	780	Music
		781	General principles and musical forms
		782	Vocal music
		783	Music for single voices; The voice
		784-788	Instruments and their music

Selected Reference Books – (Although many useful tools are not on this list, the following items can be quite helpful)

General, Main Library

- 📖 **Annals of Opera, 1597-1940** [ML102.O6 L6 1970 Ref] – Performances of better-known operas are listed by year. The index is useful for finding basic information about an opera, including title, composer, librettist, and place and date of first performance.
- 📖 **Baker’s Biographical Dictionary of Musicians** [ML105.B16 2001 6 volumes Ref] – This latest and largest edition of this work contains alphabetically arranged articles on musicians from all over the world, with bibliographic citations and work lists following many of the entries.
- 📖 **Bibliography of Black Music** [ML128.B45 D44 4 volumes Ref] – Covering black music worldwide, the three volumes available at this library focus on reference materials, Afro-American idioms, and geographical studies (volume 4 is not available at this library). African culture groups, authors, co-authors, and editors are indexed.
- 📖 **Black Music in the United States: an Annotated Bibliography of Selected Reference and Research Materials** [ML128.B45 F6 1983 Ref] – This is a bibliographic listing of sources, collections, and repositories having to do with various aspects of black music in this country.
- 📖 **Children’s Song Index: An Index to More Than 22,000 Songs in 189 Collections Comprising 222 volumes** [ML128.S3 C9 Ref] – This work is arranged in alphabetical sequence by title, subject, composer, author, alternate title, or first line.
- 📖 **Career Opportunities in the Music Industry, 5th ed.** [ML3795 .F497 2004 Ref] – The main part of this single-volume resource gives descriptions of various individual careers (including approximate salaries and outlook for employment and advancement), and the appendix lists training institutions and workshops, along with trade associations and other contacts.
- 📖 **Dictionary of American Pop/Rock: Rock, Pop, Rhythm & Blues, Folk, Country, Blues, Gospel, Jazz, Films, Musical Theater, Recording & Music Business** [ML102.P66 S5 1982 Ref] – A work containing brief alphabetical entries of names, terminology, slang, and dance names.
- 📖 **Dictionary of Musical Technology** [ML102.E4 C37 1992 Ref] – Arranged alphabetically, this source contains technical information on electronics terminology and techniques as related to recording and audio production.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of Popular Music** [ML102.P66 G84 2006 10 volumes Ref] – An extensive reference tool containing alphabetical entries on artists, groups, and festivals in the realm of popular music.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of Recorded Sound, 2nd ed.** [ML102.S67 E5 2005 2 volumes Ref] – This work provides alphabetical entries on recording labels, companies, and recording terminology, as well as on performers.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of Rhythm & Blues and Doo Wop Vocal Groups** [ML102.P66 R67 2000 Ref] – This contains brief biographies of artists and/or groups, along with discographies.
- 📖 **Encyclopedia of the Blues** [ML102.B6 E53 2006 2 volumes Ref] – With entries arranged alphabetically, this resource also groups its entries in various themes: biographical, cultural, and geographical, historiography, instruments, music business, musical styles, musical techniques, record labels, related art forms, and song titles.

- 📖 **Encyclopedia of the Musical Theatre** [ML102.M88 G3 1994 2 volumes Ref] – This set contains historical material on various musicals, and the performers playing in them.
- 📖 **The Facts on File Dictionary of Music** [ML100 .A48 2004 Ref] – Alphabetical entries are available here for many musical terms and composers, with pronunciation for non-English terms and names. Also included are several lists of important ballets, operas, and symphonies.
- 📖 **The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music** [ML100 .G16 1998 10 volumes Ref; compact discs in IRC 780.9 G233 DC 9 volumes Ref] – The index, glossary, and lists found in volume 10 of this comprehensive work on world music serve as an important key to the other 9 volumes, each of which contain a number of essays concerning the music of a specific geographic region. Accompanying compact discs for volumes 1-9 are shelved in the IRC in the media area behind the Circulation Desk under the Dewey call number given above.
- 📖 **The Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music** [ML105 .H38 1996 Ref] – Filling in the gap that **The Harvard Dictionary of Music** (see below) has for decades left unaddressed, this work provides articles of moderate length on figures in Western Music, includes lists of more important works and bibliographies, and is more portable than the **Baker's** or the **New Grove**.
- 📖 **The Harvard Dictionary of Music** [ML100 .A64 2003 Ref] – Currently in its 4th edition, this is one of the most widely used single-volume dictionaries of music. Lacking biographies (a gap recently filled by **The Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music**, this provides very detailed coverage of terms, concepts, and theoretical matters, and the more lengthy articles usually include a bibliography to consult for more information.
- 📖 **Historical Sets, Collected Editions and Monuments of Music** [ML113.H52 1969 Ref] – This source lists the general contents of complete editions of works by composers, as well as collected sets of music. A more recent (1980) edition of this, in 2 volumes, is housed in the IRC on the shelves with the scores [780.016 H615h 1980 2 volumes].
- 📖 **International Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians** [ML100 .I57 1985 Ref] – This 11th edition contains biographies of composers, and lists of best-known works follow each article.
- 📖 **International Who's Who in Classical Music** [ML105 .I54 2004 Ref], **International Who's Who in Popular Music** [ML105 .I55 2004 Ref] – Concerning itself with those notable persons who are currently alive, this 6th edition is split into two volumes: the classical volume contains biographies followed by directories of orchestras, opera houses, festivals, record companies, booking agents, and music publishers; the popular volume is similarly constructed.
- 📖 **International Dictionary of Black Composers** [ML105 .I5 1999 2 volumes Ref] – Includes essays, biographies, work lists, and discographies for people or their work.
- 📖 **International Encyclopedia of Women Composers** [ML105 .C7 1987 2 volumes Ref] – This 2nd edition provides biographies and work lists for most of its entries.
- 📖 **Library Research Guide to Music** [ML111 .D78 1982 Ref] – Provides a list of basic reference sources for music, as well as pointers for undergraduate music students on writing papers in music.
- 📖 **The Literature of American Music in Books and Folk Music Collections: A Fully Annotated Bibliography** [ML120.U5 H7 Ref] – Hundreds of sources are listed in this work, covering various aspects of American music, including the cultivated tradition, church music, folk music, blues, jazz, popular (to 1977), American Indian music, and black music. A second copy and a 1988 supplement are located in the general collection under the same call number.
- 📖 **Music Reference and Research Materials: an Annotated Bibliography** [ML113 .D83 1997 Ref] – For years an essential beginning tool for the serious researcher, the 5th edition of this important reference work serves as a key that acquaints the user with the panorama of materials available on topics pertaining to music.
- 📖 **Music Translation Dictionary: an English-Czech-Danish-Dutch-French-German-Hungarian-Italian-Polish-Portuguese-Russian-Spanish-Swedish Vocabulary of Musical Terms** [ML108 .G855 1978 Ref] – Each musical term is given in thirteen languages, and they are grouped alphabetically by their English equivalent. Each language's term is accessed through an alphabetical index by word.
- 📖 **The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, 2nd edition** [ML100 .N48 2001 29 volumes Ref] – The largest and most comprehensive English language encyclopedia on music, this source, with its extensive and detailed articles, bibliographies, and work lists, is easily the “first stop” for a researcher on most topics in music. Other resources in the **New Grove** series (given below) provide similar treatment for their respective subjects.
- 📖 **The New Grove Dictionary of American Music** [ML101.U6 N48 1986 4 volumes Ref].
- 📖 **The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz, 2nd edition** [ML102.J3 N48 2002 3 volumes Ref].
- 📖 **The New Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments** [ML102.I5 N48 1985 3 volumes Ref].
- 📖 **The New Grove Dictionary of Opera** [ML102.O6 N5 1994 4 volumes Ref].
- 📖 **The New Kobbé's Complete Opera Book** [MT95 .K52 1976 Ref] – This volume contains plots and some musical themes for operas that are generally considered part of the current performing repertoire.
- 📖 **New Oxford History of Music** [ML160.N44 11 volumes Ref (Roberts-LaForge Library has only volumes 1-10)] – Taking music history from its antiquity to 1960, each volume deals with a time period, which is divided into various aspects of music in that period. An index and bibliography appear at the end of each volume.

- 📖 **The New Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock & Roll** [ML102.R6 R64 1995 Ref] – This “completely revised and updated” work provides information on performing artists and groups in the popular and rock genre through the mid-1990s.
- 📖 **The Norton/Grove Dictionary of Women Composers** [ML105 .N38 1995 Ref] – Arranged alphabetically by composer, this work provides concise articles, pictures, work lists, and bibliographies.
- 📖 **Periodical Literature on American Music, 1620-1920: a Classified Bibliography with Annotations** [ML120.U5 W18 1988 Ref] – Numerous topics under the subject of American music are presented, each with citations in various periodicals.
- 📖 **Reggae, the Rough Guide**[ML3532 .B37 1997 Ref] – Provides information on the history of reggae, its performers, and their recordings. The index is useful as a means of access to the book, and a glossary of terms is included as well.
- 📖 **Researching the Song: a Lexicon** [ML102.S6 E46 2006 Ref] – This is a single-volume work that focuses on the poets, poetry, and literary allusions that appear in art songs.
- 📖 **The Well-Tempered Announcer: a Pronunciation Guide to Classical Music** [ML109 .F73 1996 Ref] – A useful tool for learning the pronunciation of various composers’ names and terms used in music, this guide is arranged alphabetically.
- 📖 **World Music, the Rough Guide** [ML3545 .W66 1994 Ref] – This work provides a concise history of various world music genres. Arranged by geographic area, it provides information on both performers as well as recordings.

Instructional Resources Center (IRC)

- 📖 **Broadway Musicals, Show by Show** [782.14 G798b 1996 Ref] – Gives information on musicals according to the year they appeared on Broadway. The indexes provide access by show title, composer/lyricist, librettist, director, choreographer, original major cast members, and theatre name.
- 📖 **Children's Jukebox: a Subject Guide to Musical Recordings and Programming Ideas for Songsters Ages One to Twelve** [016.78242 R357c Ref] – A list of nearly 300 recordings is indexed by various subjects and type of song. The top 20 of the list of recordings is given as a “core” collection. Also included are lists of children’s videos, and addresses for distributors of children’s recordings.
- 📖 **The Children's Song Index, 1978-1993** [016.78242 C536 1996 Ref] – An index to about 77 song collection books by song title, first line, and subject, using an included thesaurus of subject headings.

Selected Databases/Indexes

- 📖 **Humanities Index** (1974-1997) – Index of articles, interviews, bibliographies, and book reviews on all areas of the humanities including music, art, philosophy, and history. This index is housed in the Reference Department in Index Counter 7.
- 📖 **The Music Index** (1949-2000) – Print version of one of the principal indexes for music periodicals, and still useful for finding articles that were published before 1970. This index is shelved in the Reference Department in Index Counter 8.
- 📖 **The Music Index Online** (1970-Present) ^{Off-campus} – Another excellent first-stop and indispensable aid to finding information on music-related topics in popular and scholarly journals, this database boasts coverage of over 775 international journals, including *The Musical Quarterly*, *The Choral Journal*, *Journal of the American Musicological Society (JAMS)*, *Cadence*, *Music Educators Journal*, *Music & Letters*, and the *Journal of Band Research*. Go to <http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/music-index> and click one of the buttons under “Coverage List” to see a complete listing of indexed journals.

Selected Web Sites

- 🌐 **Online Resources for Music Scholars** [<http://guides.hcl.harvard.edu/onmusic>] – Part of the website from Harvard University’s Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library, this site has a few categories that may be of interest to non-Harvard users. Click the “Online Resources for Music Scholars” tab and try narrowing, or reorganizing, the resources using the “Tag clouds” tab option (either Subject or Resource type).
- 🌐 **WWW Sites of Interest to Musicologists** [<http://www.ams-net.org/www-musicology.php>] – Found at the American Musicological Society website (choosing “Electronic resources” and then choosing “Musicology links”), this site provides links to other websites, organized into over thirty categories, including Opera and Song, Early Music, Theory, Rock and Pop, Jazz, Music and Film, Women in Music, and Catalogue of Music Resources, among many others.