



Music Resources for Pianists

Reference Department
Albert S. Cook Library

Through its web page, Cook Library offers a wide variety of resources for pianists. Whether you are searching for musical scores, sound recordings, or music to stream, the library has a great deal of material you can use in your research and your performance practice.

The **library catalog**, lists musical scores, sound recordings, and books available in **Cook Library** as well as other libraries in the University System of Maryland.

To access the library home page: <http://cooklibrary.towson.edu>

- **Library Catalog** – lists materials owned at Cook Library on campus
- **USMAI Catalog** – lists materials owned in state university libraries
- **WorldCat** – lists materials owned in private and public universities and public libraries

Searching the Library Catalogs for Scores or Sound Recordings

To search for a **composer's works**, select **author beginning with** search and input composer's name. Always type last name followed by first name of the composer, as shown below:

Copland, Aaron or **Barber, Samuel**

Select the heading that has the full name of your composer and the birth and death dates and click on it to see selections. You will see both scores and recordings in a mixed list.

Title beginning with: searches for specific works (Ex. *Pictures at an Exhibition*)

Subject beginning with: searches for material about the piano and famous pianists (Ex. "Horowitz, Vladimir" or "concertos, piano")

Advanced search allows you to combine a composer name and limit the results by format (scores, DVDs, CDs). If you have a specific work you are looking for, you can add that to the search:

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- A dropdown menu for "search for words in..." with "author" selected.
- A text input field containing "Debussy" and another containing "Preludes".
- A dropdown menu for "all fields" with "all fields" selected.
- Buttons for "search" and "clear".
- A section for "or limit search by:" with "Scores" selected.
- A red box labeled "Limit by score" with an arrow pointing to the "Scores" selection.
- A red box labeled "change search type and input terms" with an arrow pointing to the search input fields.

Finding Music Materials in the Stacks

Print music resources are classed into the following three subcategories:

- **M** = Musical scores (includes all types listed below)
- **ML** = Music Literature (books about composers and compositions; music journals are also classed and shelved here and in the MT section below)
- **MT** = Musical Instruction and Study (technique and theory)

Types of Scores Available at Cook Library

- **Full orchestral score** – piano part plus all other instruments
- **Study/miniature score** – same as above but tiny in size
- **Arrangements** – works originally scored for an instrument other than piano
- **Complete works editions** – all works by composer in an authoritative edition
- **Performance editions** – scores designed to be used for performance
- **Autograph/Facsimile editions** – copies of scores in composer's actually handwriting

Browsing the M Stacks for Piano Scores

M20-39 = solo piano music

- M20-22 – Collections (anthologies by composers)
- M23 = Sonatas
- M24 = Suites
- M25 = Other separate works (individual longer pieces)
- M26 = Piano, 1 hand (Ex. etudes only for left hand)
- M27 = Variations
- M28 = Marches
- M30-32 = Dances (polkas, polonaises, waltzes, etc.)
- M32.8-M39 = Arrangements for piano



Piano with other instruments

- M198-216 = Piano (4 hands, 2 pianos, etc.)
- M217-277 = Piano + another instrument
- M310-344 = Trios with piano
- M410-444 = Quartets with piano
- M510-549 = Quintets with piano (see the pattern here: sextets = 610, etc.)
- M1010-1011 = Piano with orchestra
 - M1010 = Full scores
 - M1011 = 2 piano score (solo piano + piano reduction of orchestral part)

Also note these areas:

- MT220-252 = studies and methods for piano
- ML417 = biographies of pianists
 - For example:
 - ML417 H8 = Horowitz
 - ML417 L28 = Lang Lang



Note: Sound recordings at Cook Library are catalogued in the exact same manner as piano scores. These are kept at the MRS Desk on the second floor of the library, behind the service desk.

Subject Gateways for Music

- **Music** = mostly for music history/literature with widest variety of resources
- **Applied Music** = for performance majors with large set of links for online scores
- **Music Education** = for potential teachers with many handbooks and lesson plan links

Most Popular Music Subject Gateway Resources

Audio streaming databases

- *Naxos Music Library*
- *Naxos Music Library Jazz*
- *Smithsonian Global Sound*

Tools for researching composers and pianists

- *Oxford Music Online* (includes *Grove's Dictionary of Music*)
- *Musicians and Composers of the 20th Century*
- *Biography in Context*

Video streaming databases

- *Films on Demand*
- *VAST Academic Video Online*



A Word about E-books

Cook Library subscribes to three major electronic book databases which provide full text books on your desktop, including many music literature and music reference titles. Library catalog records may indicate that such an item is an “electronic resource.” If so, click on the **Find It** button to access. To search the full text of a large number of ebooks, open a particular e-book database and search by keyword.

E-book databases include:

- *Ebrary Academic Complete*
- *EBSCO ebooks*
- *Early English Books Online (EEBO)*.



Requesting Materials from another State University Library

Using the USMAI Combined Catalog: You have full borrowing privileges at all the USMAI libraries (this includes the wonderful Performing Arts Library at College Park) if you wish to visit and check out materials in person. If an item you want is in at another USM library, you also can electronically request books or scores to be sent here for you to borrow at TU.

To request a book/score transfer to TU: click on the title of the item you want and see the full view of record (the information about only that item will now fill your screen). Click on the “**All locations: Availability**” link, and click on the “**Request**” button. Select Towson as your institution, and fill out the required information and “**Send**” your request. In a few days, you will receive notification from our Circulation Department that your item has arrived.



Using the *WorldCat* Database for Titles not Owned in USMAI

It is very possible that the score or anthology that you have seen in a bookstore is not available through the USMAI system. You can use *WorldCat* to see holdings of libraries in the state and across the country.

To search *WorldCat*: To make sure you have the correct edition of the exact score you want, you may first check it on Amazon.com or Sheetmusicplus.com to note the publisher/editor, and table of contents. Take particular care in noting ISBN number and publication date information. Open the database and search for the exact edition of the score. From your result list, select the item you want by clicking on its title. Click on the “**libraries worldwide that own item**” link to see if any nearby libraries own a copy.

Note: If libraries at Goucher, Loyola Notre Dame, or Stevenson University own the item, you may go in person to check it out. If the score or CD is owned at Peabody, you will need to make an interlibrary loan request as you have visiting privileges, but cannot directly borrow from their library.

To make an interlibrary loan request: From the full record screen, click on the “**Find It**” button and open the “**Request Document through Interlibrary Loan**” link. Log into your **ILLiad account** and fill out all the required fields for the loan request and click “**Submit.**” Our Interlibrary Loan Department will email or phone you when your item arrives. If you don’t yet have an interlibrary loan (ILLiad account), follow the above steps, but click on “**First Time Users**” to create one.

Note: You can request not only scores through *Worldcat*, but also CDs and DVDs as well. Be sure to note that you are using the AV materials for research for a music class on the ILLiad request form.

When all else fails

Wozworld Quick Guides to Research to the Rescue!

I have designed a variety of different step by step guides with illustrations for basic research tasks. Visit my web page to download a *Wozworld Guide* or to check out the other music pathfinders I have created.

- To see *Wozworld Quick Guides*, click on the ***Wozworld Guides*** link on my web page.
- To see other pathfinders on my web page, click on **Music Resources – Getting Started in Music Research.**
- To see latest news about performing arts research at Cook Library, check out my **blog.**

Still need more help? Please contact me to make an individual research appointment.

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