



**Selected Research Sources for Music History**  
Reference Department  
Albert S. Cook Library

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**Guides for Writing about Music and Basic Sources**

- Ref  
ML3797.W75      *Writing about Music: A Style Sheet* (2008) – useful for examples not given in style guides which are not specifically about music
- Ref  
ML113.S28      *Music Research: A Handbook* (2009) – very complete listing of sources to investigate
- Ref  
ML113.D8      *Music Reference and Research Materials* (Duckles) 1997 – a standard in the field directing readers to key sources for a wide variety of music literature topics
- Ref  
ML3797.I79      *Irvine's Writing about Music* (Radice) 1999 – covers the mechanics of citing sources, report formatting, and writing problems
- Ref  
ML3797 .W54      *Writing about Music* (Wingell) 2002 – describes research methods and integrating musical sources into text
- Reserves  
ML3797.B4      *A Short Guide to Writing about Music* (Bellman) 2000 – brief but insightful guide on how to write about music for the novice researcher

**Dictionaries/Encyclopedias**



- Ref  
ML100.K34      *Oxford Dictionary of Music* (1994) – entries covering musical terms, performers, and composers with classified composition lists
- Ref  
ML100.H37      *Harvard Dictionary of Music* (2003) – comprehensive dictionary of terms, compositions, and musical genres
- Ref  
ML100.I57      *International Encyclopedia of Music and Musicians* (1985) – notable for its biographical articles with source notes, earlier editions are in STACKS area
- Ref  
ML100.O94      *Oxford Companion to Music* (2002) – updated for a greater focus on Western music, also consult the earlier 2 volume edition by Arnold as well as older editions kept in STACKS area
- Ref  
ML100.N48      *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (1982) – 20 volumes - print edition of the standard work – not as current as electronic edition described later
- Ref  
ML160.N4      *New Oxford History of Music* (1954-1990) – very comprehensive 10 volume encyclopedia covering periods from Antiquity to the 1960's

- Ref  
ML160.T18      *Oxford History of Western Music* (2004) – six volume set – see last volume for extensive chronologies, recommended readings and master index
- Ref  
ML100.B37      *Billboard Encyclopedia of Classical Music* (2004) – arranged chronologically, covers important people, genres, musical forms, and movements
- Ref  
ML102.56E46      *Researching the Song: A Lexicon* (2006) – identifies composers, poets, and symbols/references in Western art song
- Ref  
MT35.G494      *Essential Dictionary of Music Notation* (1996) – illustrated entries to explain various examples of musical notation
- Ref  
MT70.B55      *Essential Dictionary of Orchestration* (1998) – describes instrument ranges as well as characteristics of scoring for specific instruments



### Biographical Sources

- Ref  
ML105.B16      *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians* (2001) – six volume set covering international composers and performers
- Ref  
ML105.H38      *Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music* (1996) – includes composers and performers of classical music
- Ref  
ML82.F76      *From Convent to Concert Hall: A Guide to Women Composers* (2003) – arranged chronologically, entries include extensive bibliographies and timelines
- Ref  
M2.W88      *Women Composers – Music Through the Ages* (1996 –) 7 volumes of biographical essays complete with musical score examples
- Ref  
NX456.K67      *Dictionary of the Avant Gardes* (2001) – biographical entries with bibliographies for major figures in music, visual arts, dance and theatre

### Individual Composer Dictionaries

- Ref  
ML410.M9C257      *Cambridge Mozart Encyclopedia* (2006)
- Ref  
ML410.B8 C54      *Brahms and his World: A Biographical Dictionary* (2006)
- Ref  
ML410.B4 C62      *Beethoven and his World: A Biographical Dictionary* (2001)

### Guides to Musical Genres/Styles

- Ref  
ML1255.B87  
v.2      *Symphonic Repertoire, Volume II: First Golden Age of the Viennese Symphony* (2002) – detailed essays on works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert
- Ref  
ML 1255.B87      *Symphonic Repertoire, Volume IV: The Second Golden Age of the*

- v.4 *Viennese Symphony: Brahms, Bruckner, Dvořák, Mahler, and Selected Contemporaries* (2003) – similar to above volume
- Ref  
ML 1255.B87  
v.3a *Symphonic Repertoire, Volume III, part A: The European Symphony from ca. 1800- to ca. 1930* (2007) – focuses on the works of composers in Germany and the Nordic countries
- Ref  
ML1255.B87  
v. 3b *Symphonic Repertoire, Volume III, part B: The European Symphony from ca. 1800 to ca. 1930: Great Britain, Russia, and France* (2008) – similar to above volume
- Ref  
ML102.P5E53 *Piano: An Encyclopedia* (2003) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition – profiles major composers of piano music with discussions of the piano's instrumental development
- Ref  
GV 1585.I586 *International Encyclopedia of Dance* (1998-2005) – discussions of major dance movements, people, venues, and companies throughout history
- Ref  
ML102.O6M45 *Opera: An Encyclopedia of World Premieres, and Significant Performances, Singers, Composers, Librettists, Arias and Conductors, 1597-2000* (2007) – International in scope, covers performers, productions and composers
- Ref  
ML100.M29 *Performance Practice: A Dictionary Guide for Musicians* (2005) – describes how much was performed at its time of composition
- Ref  
ML102.O6N5 *New Grove Dictionary of Opera* (1992) - 4 volumes – in addition to biographical entries, includes detailed synopses of operas – also available electronically on Grove's database described later
- Ref  
ML1263.S74 *The Concerto: A Listener's Guide* (1998) – articles profiling individual works
- Ref  
MT125 .S79 *The Symphony: A Listener's Guide* (1995) – similar to above volume
- Ref  
MT110 .S74 *Choral Masterworks: A Listener's Guide* (2005) – similar to above volumes

### **Bibliographies**

- Ref  
ML113.G793 *Index to Composer Bibliographies* (1985) – listing of books and articles arranged alphabetically by composer name
- Ref  
ML113.D8 *Music Reference and Research Materials* (1997) – lists articles and books on genres, periods, and composers
- Ref  
ML128.W7P46 *Women in Music: A Research and Information Guide* (2005) – annotated listing of articles, books, book chapters, and recommended sources on various women composers throughout history
- Ref  
ML128.V4K38 *Violin: A Research and Information Guide* (2006) – annotated lists of articles covering violinists, compositions, and performance practice

Ref  
ML128.O4M28      *Opera: A Research and Information Guide* (2001) – arranged by composer name lists essential sources

Ref  
ML128.C84L56      *Concerto: A Research and Information Guide* (2006) – similar to above volume on opera

### **Indexes to Music Research Sources – Print Editions**

Ref  
ML128.S3      *Index to Poetry in Music* (2003) – indexes 125 major lieder and art song composers to identify vocal settings of poetic works

Ref  
ML118.M8      *Music Index* (1949-1996) -index to articles in music journals, arranged by topic – located on back wall of 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Cook Library

Ref  
ML1.I83      *RILM (Repertoire International de Litterature Musicale)* 1967-1995 – international index to journal articles and books

### **Cultural/Historical Multidisciplinary Sources**

Ref  
PN603.E53      *Encyclopedia of the Romantic Era, 1760-1850* – covers art, music, and literature with articles devoted to both composers and specific works

Ref  
CT759.D4813      *Dictionary of German Biography* (2001) – biographical articles covering a wide variety of persons across all disciplines

Ref  
NX447.5.B76      *Timelines of the Arts and Literature* (1994) – chronologically arranged by year, shows major developments in visual arts, music, and theatre

Ref  
DA550.E527      *Encyclopedia of the Victorian Era* (2004) – helpful articles on music publishing, music venues, and personalities of the time

Ref  
DC33.7.F726      *French Culture: 1900-1975* (1995) – biographical and geographical entries covering all arts with references for further reading

Ref  
D11.M39      *Chronology of the Changing World* (1999) – see volumes III and IV – chronology of events by year including science, the arts, history, and politics



### **Electronic Indexing/Abstracting Resources for Journal Articles**

The following electronic resources can be found by following this path from the Cook Library Homepage: (<http://cooklibrary.towson.edu>) **Research Tools – Subject Gateways - Select a Subject Area – Music.**



*RILM* – online version of print source, mostly indexing/abstracting listings with limited delivery of full text – additional titles through *Find It*



*International Index to Music Periodicals* – indexes to journal articles with some full text article delivery as well as *Find It* links



*Music Index Online* – similar to print edition described earlier, but more current with some full text

The following databases are not specific to music, but they may have some useful articles for background material:



*Humanities Abstracts* – offers both indexing and abstracts for journal articles as well as full text delivery and/or access links



*International Index to the Performing Arts* - similar to *IIMP* above, but indexes different journals



*Academic Search Premier* – multidisciplinary database covering a wide variety of topics from history to culture to arts



*JSTOR* – fulltext journal articles from the 1800's - 2002

#### Other Electronic Research Tools



*Worldcat* – database of books, recordings, scores and more owned across the state and the country – great for interlibrary loan requests



*Grove Music Online* (now included in *Oxford Music Online*) – searchable database of musical terms, people, compositions, and styles - more recent than print edition in Reference - online edition includes *Grove's Dictionary of Opera*, *Oxford Companion to Music* and *Oxford Dictionary of Music*



*Naxos Music Library* – database of streamed musical recordings searchable by composer, title, musical genre, and keyword



*Biography Resource Center* – database of reference articles and magazine articles on notable personalities both past and present



*Academic Complete* (ebrary) & *Net-Library* – databases of full text books with many music titles included

***Need more help? Make a personal research appointment with me by calling (410) 704-2498, or emailing me at [lwoznicki@towson.edu](mailto:lwoznicki@towson.edu)***



**For research help** on this or any other research project, contact a reference librarian in person at the Cook Library Reference Desk, by phone at (410) 704-2462, or visit our web page at <http://cooklibrary.towson.edu>.