The Blair Performance Archive :

one library's online solution toward making a school's performance history accessible

Jacob Schaub
Vanderbilt University

SEMLA
Columbia, SC
October 15, 2010

Blair School of Music

- A complicated history:
  - George Peabody College for Teachers, to 1979
  - Blair Academy of Music (affiliated with the George Peabody College for Teachers), 1964-1977
  - Blair Academy of Music (independent), 1977-1981
  - Blair School of Music (part of Vanderbilt University), 1981-present

Blair School of Music Holdings

- Faculty recitals
- Student degree recitals
- Student non-degree recitals
- Studio recitals
- Pre-college recitals
- Large ensembles
- Chamber ensembles
- Stage productions
- Visiting artists
- Masterclasses
- Lectures

Blair School of Music Holdings

- 5000+ items held in multiple formats
  - Reel-to-reels (different types)
  - Cassette tapes
  - DAT tapes
  - CDs
  - DVDs
- approx. 800 new recordings deposited annually by Blair Technical Services

Blair School of Music

- How were things handled before?
  - Recordings were stored in different locations across campus
    - Blair Technical Services (beneath the Ingram Concert Hall)
    - Faculty offices
    - Music Rehearsal Building
  - No one organizational scheme dominated
  - People did not know what we had nor where to find it

What to do?

Development of:

The Blair Performance Archive (BPA)

- Goals:
  - Browseable and searchable catalog
  - Online streaming access to sound files
  - Digital preservation copies of items
  - Copyright protection/security
  - Be realistic!

The Blair Performance Archive

- Development Methods/Factors
  - Few options for development
    - LITS understaffed
    - Little budget for technology or student workers
    - Staffing time constraints
  - BUT, earlier projects to draw upon:
    - The Global Music Archive
      - Earlier digital library developed by the Blair School of Music, Wilson Music Library, and LITS in 2006

The Blair Performance Archive

- Database structure:
  - Influenced heavily by the Global Music Archive
- Hardware:
  - 1 PC workstation
  - External hard drive (provided by LITS)
- Software:

User access:

- Web browser
- Adobe Reader
- RealMedia Player

Item processing:

- Adobe Professional
- SoundForge
- Helix Production Plus

Other:

- Microsoft Excel
- [Patron password security software (TBA)]

The Blair Performance Archive

- Digitization (where applicable)
  - Funding for digitizing a portion of the Peabody reel-to-reels granted through the Dean's office of the Blair School
  - Outsourced to the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University

The Blair Performance Archive

- Metadata structure
  - Controlled headings (certain performers, type of performance, series, etc.)
    - Note: *No* controlled headings for subjects or name/titles
  - Details of recording (date, time, place)
  - Contents (as performed)
  - Classification (for uniform filenaming and shelving)
    - Formula derived from format, date, and place
  - Links to sound files and program PDF files

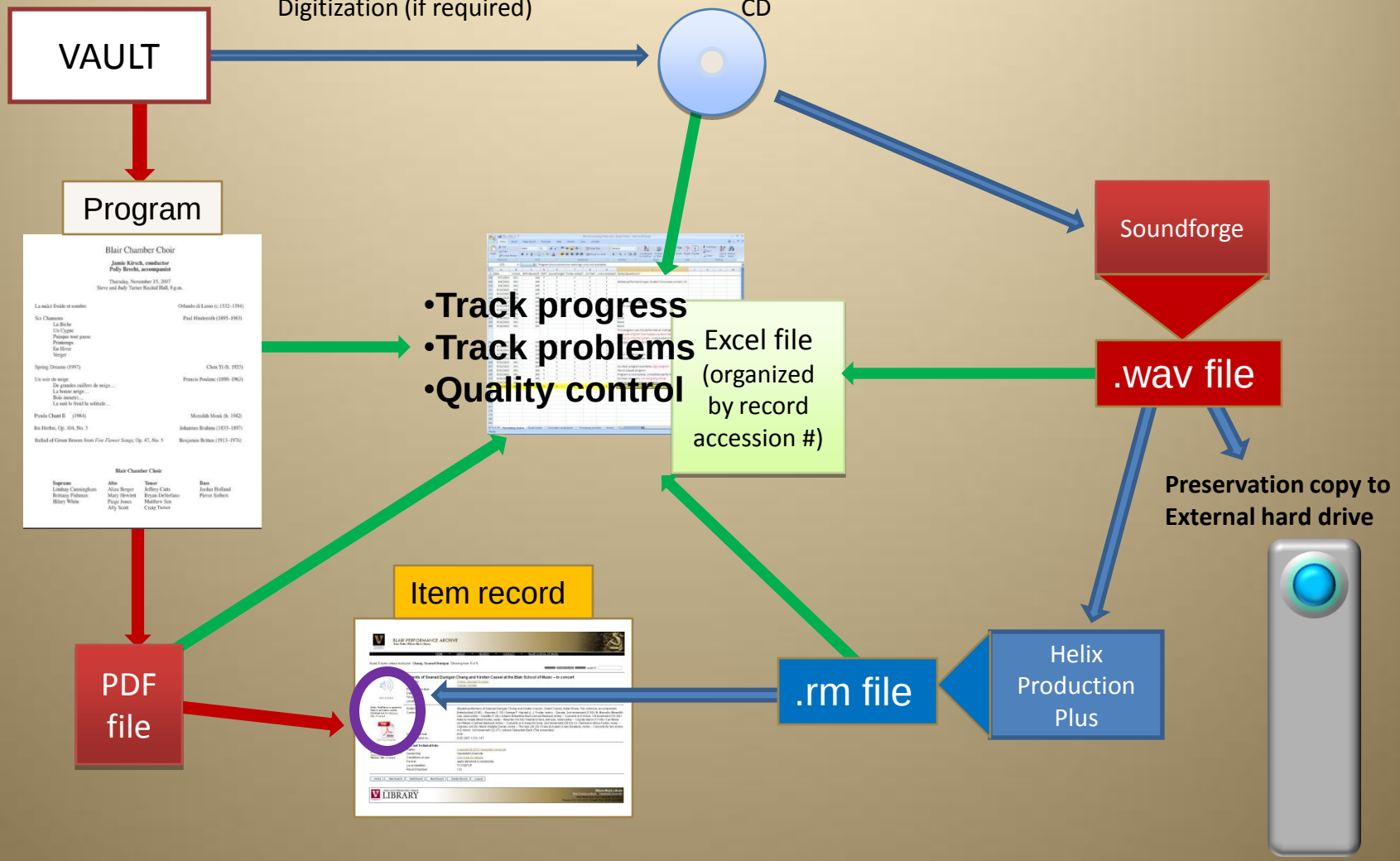
The Blair Performance Archive

- Security/Permissions
  - We had permission from students, faculty, and certain visiting artists to record their performances
  - BUT, we did not have their permission to make this content available on the open web

The Blair Performance Archive

- Security/Permissions
  - Solution:
    - Vanderbilt ID/password-protected access to the database
    - Streaming, non-downloadable digital sound files
    - If a performer specifically requests that their performance not be made accessible:
      - The link to the appropriate sound file is deactivated
      - The item record and the preservation copies are still retained

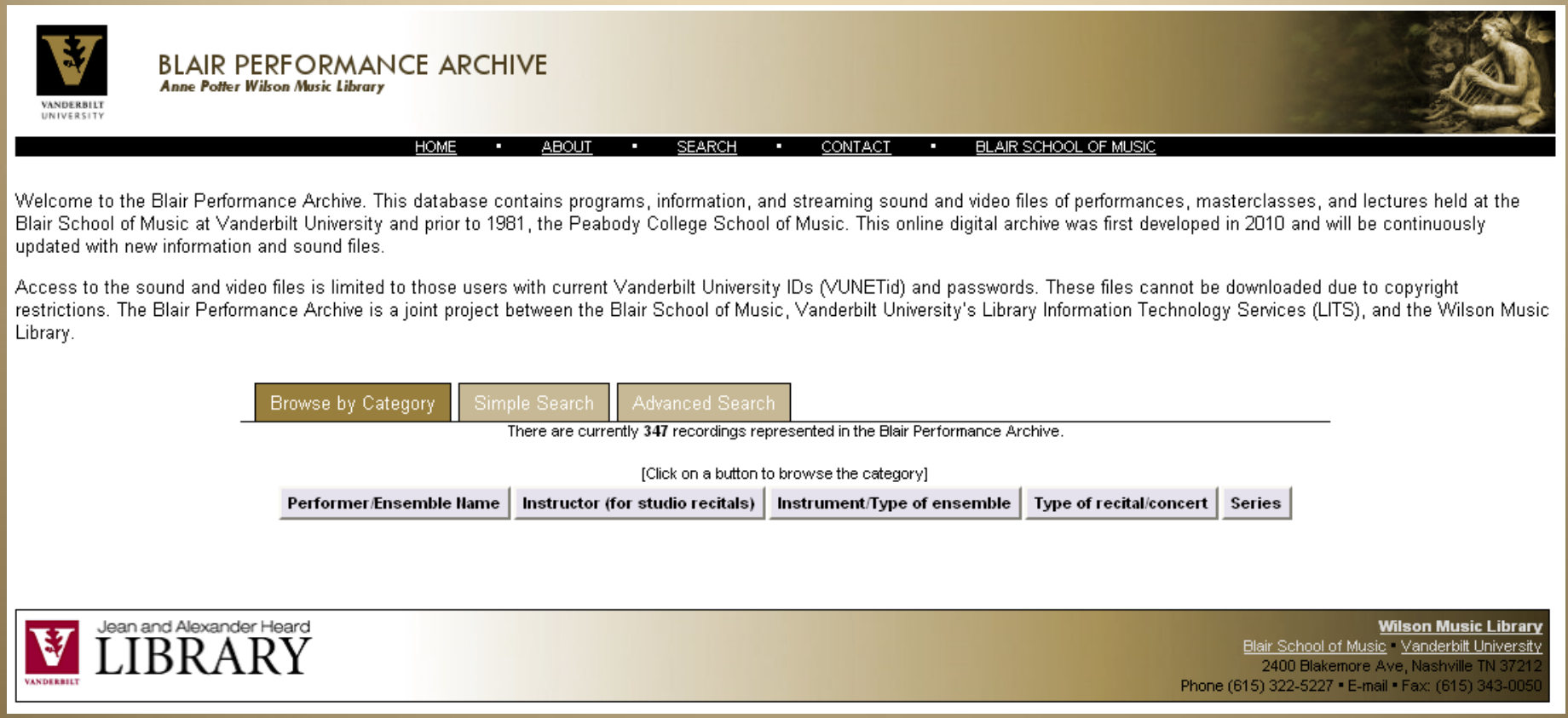
Normal workflow



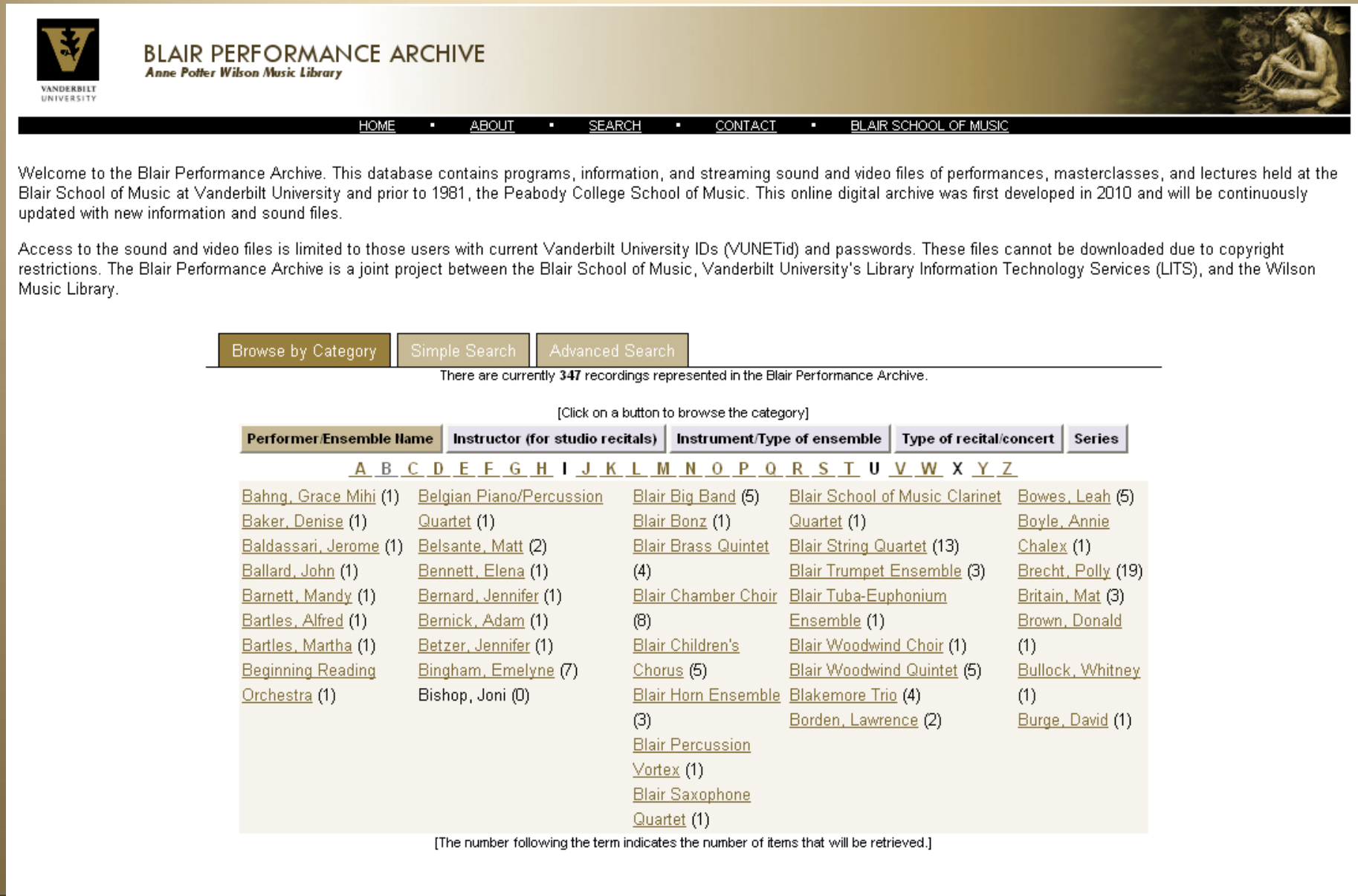
Timeline

- Process timeline
  - 2008-early 2009
    - Through a plea to faculty and technical services staff, collection of all known recordings held within the Blair School of Music into the Music Library Vault
  - 2009, May
    - Overall metadata structure completed and agreed upon
  - 2009, August
    - Wireframes completed and submitted to LITS
  - 2009, September
    - Digitization of first reel-to-reels
  - 2010, January
    - Database built by Jodie Gambill of LITS based on the structure of the GMA
  - 2010, January—present
    - Populating database (all staff + 1 student)

Demonstration



Demonstration



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Anne Potter Wilson Music Library

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Browse by Category | Simple Search | Advanced Search

There are currently **347** recordings represented in the Blair Performance Archive.

[Click on a button to browse the category]

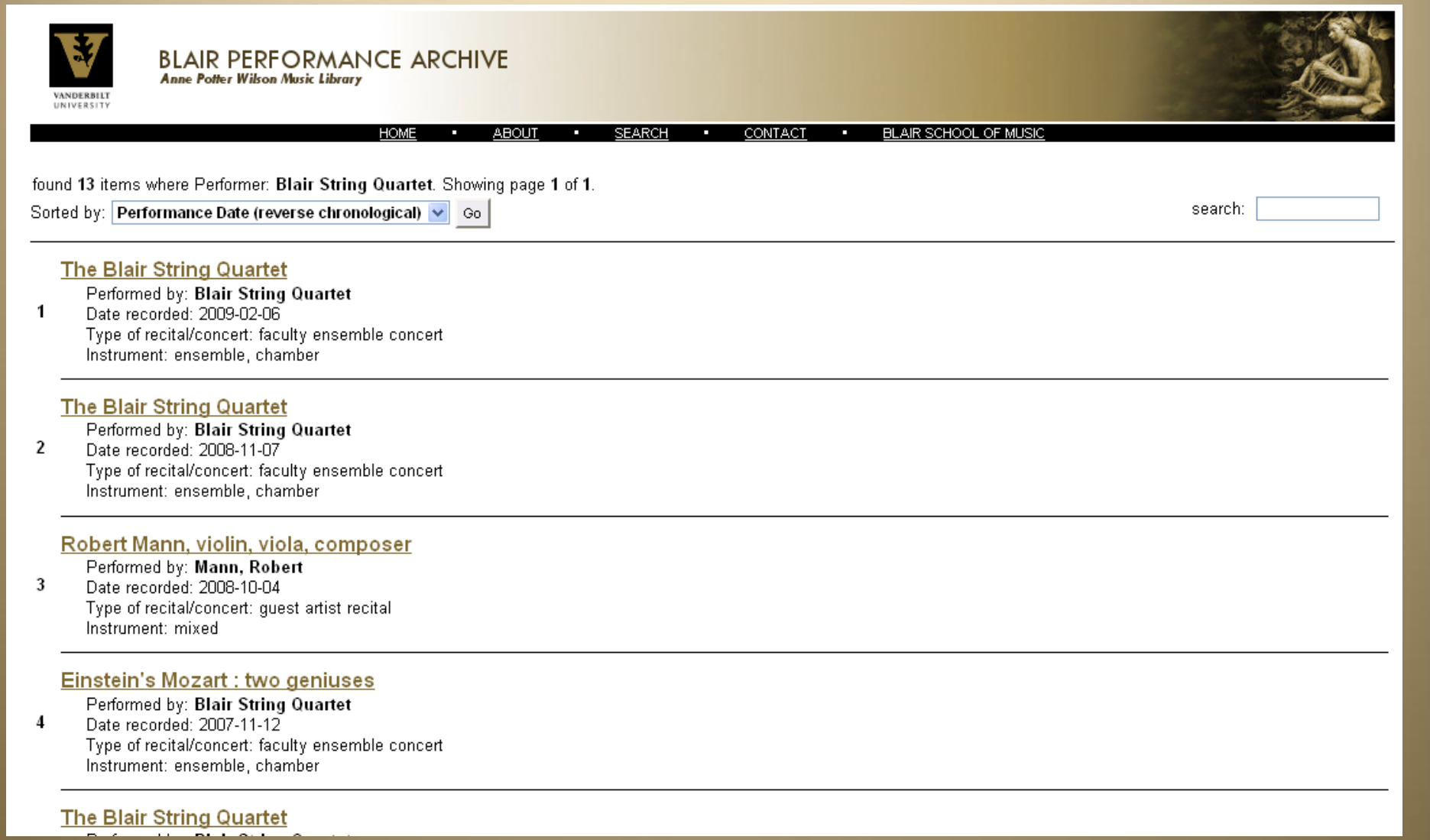
Performer/Ensemble Name | **Instructor (for studio recitals)** | **Instrument/Type of ensemble** | **Type of recital/concert** | **Series**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Bahng, Grace Mihi (1)	Belgian Piano/Percussion Quartet (1)	Blair Big Band (5)	Blair School of Music Clarinet Quartet (1)	Bowes, Leah (5)
Baker, Denise (1)	Belsante, Matt (2)	Blair Bonz (1)	Blair String Quartet (13)	Boyle, Annie
Baldassari, Jerome (1)	Bennett, Elena (1)	Blair Brass Quintet (4)	Blair Trumpet Ensemble (3)	Chalex (1)
Ballard, John (1)	Bernard, Jennifer (1)	Blair Chamber Choir (8)	Blair Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble (1)	Brecht, Polly (19)
Barnett, Mandy (1)	Bernick, Adam (1)	Blair Children's Chorus (5)	Blair Woodwind Choir (1)	Britain, Mat (3)
Bartles, Alfred (1)	Betzer, Jennifer (1)	Blair Horn Ensemble (3)	Blair Woodwind Quintet (5)	Brown, Donald (1)
Bartles, Martha (1)	Bingham, Emelyne (7)	Blair Percussion Vortex (1)	Blakemore Trio (4)	Bullock, Whitney (1)
Beginning Reading Orchestra (1)	Bishop, Joni (0)	Blair Saxophone Quartet (1)	Borden, Lawrence (2)	Burge, David (1)

[The number following the term indicates the number of items that will be retrieved.]

Demonstration



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found **13** items where Performer: **Blair String Quartet**. Showing page **1** of **1**.

Sorted by: **Performance Date (reverse chronological)** Go

search:

The Blair String Quartet
Performed by: **Blair String Quartet**
1 Date recorded: 2009-02-06
Type of recital/concert: faculty ensemble concert
Instrument: ensemble, chamber

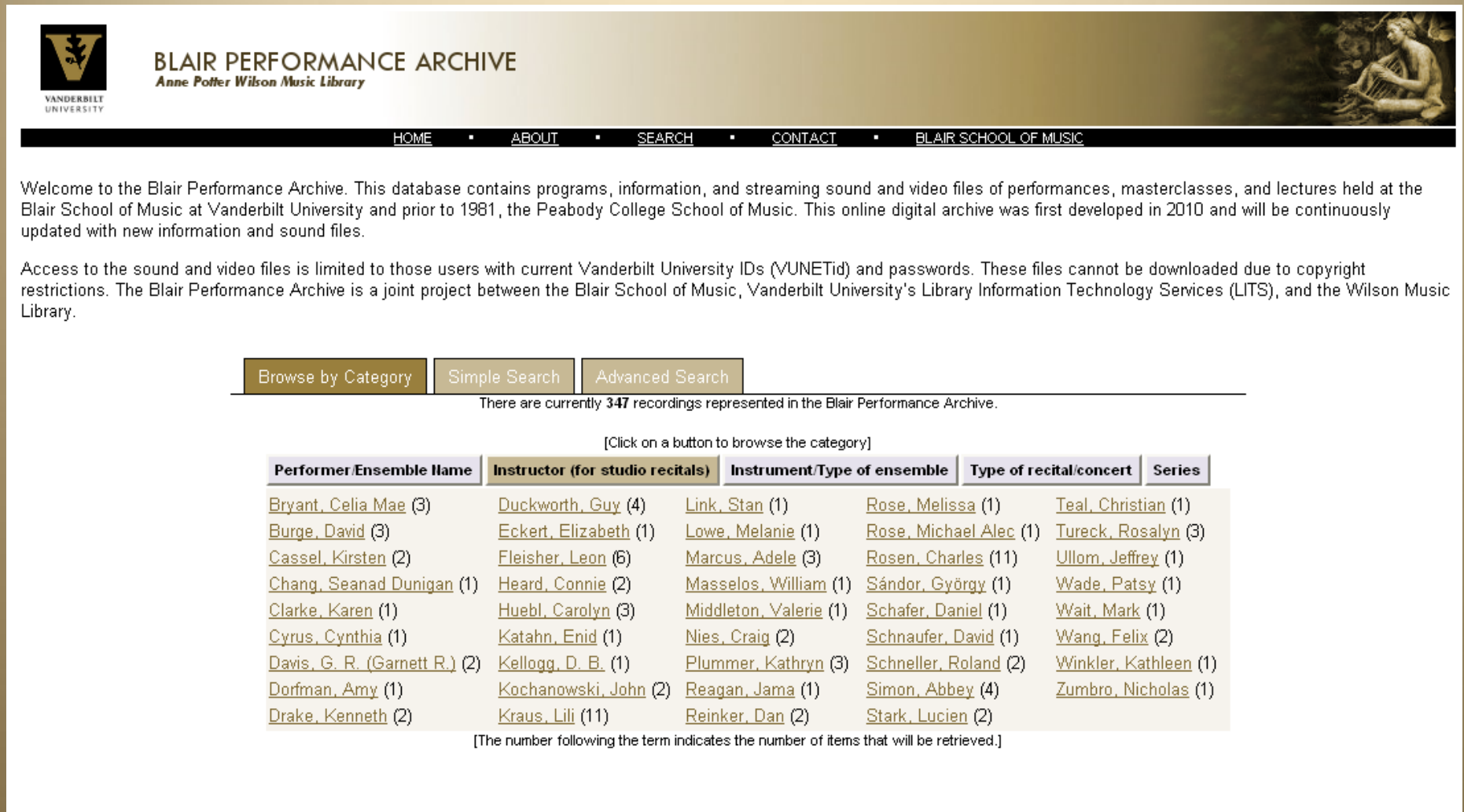
The Blair String Quartet
Performed by: **Blair String Quartet**
2 Date recorded: 2008-11-07
Type of recital/concert: faculty ensemble concert
Instrument: ensemble, chamber

Robert Mann, violin, viola, composer
Performed by: **Mann, Robert**
3 Date recorded: 2008-10-04
Type of recital/concert: guest artist recital
Instrument: mixed

Einstein's Mozart : two geniuses
Performed by: **Blair String Quartet**
4 Date recorded: 2007-11-12
Type of recital/concert: faculty ensemble concert
Instrument: ensemble, chamber

The Blair String Quartet

Demonstration



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Performer/Ensemble Name | **Instructor (for studio recitals)** | **Instrument/Type of ensemble** | **Type of recital/concert** | **Series**

Bryant, Celia Mae (3)	Duckworth, Guy (4)	Link, Stan (1)	Rose, Melissa (1)	Teal, Christian (1)
Burge, David (3)	Eckert, Elizabeth (1)	Lowe, Melanie (1)	Rose, Michael Alec (1)	Tureck, Rosalyn (3)
Cassel, Kirsten (2)	Fleisher, Leon (6)	Marcus, Adele (3)	Rosen, Charles (11)	Ullom, Jeffrey (1)
Chang, Seanad Dunigan (1)	Heard, Connie (2)	Masselos, William (1)	Sándor, György (1)	Wade, Patsy (1)
Clarke, Karen (1)	Huebl, Carolyn (3)	Middleton, Valerie (1)	Schafer, Daniel (1)	Wait, Mark (1)
Cyrus, Cynthia (1)	Katahn, Enid (1)	Nies, Craig (2)	Schnaufer, David (1)	Wang, Felix (2)
Davis, G. R. (Garnett R.) (2)	Kellogg, D. B. (1)	Plummer, Kathryn (3)	Schneller, Roland (2)	Winkler, Kathleen (1)
Dorfman, Amy (1)	Kochanowski, John (2)	Reagan, Jama (1)	Simon, Abbey (4)	Zumbro, Nicholas (1)
Drake, Kenneth (2)	Kraus, Lili (11)	Reinker, Dan (2)	Stark, Lucien (2)	

[The number following the term indicates the number of items that will be retrieved.]

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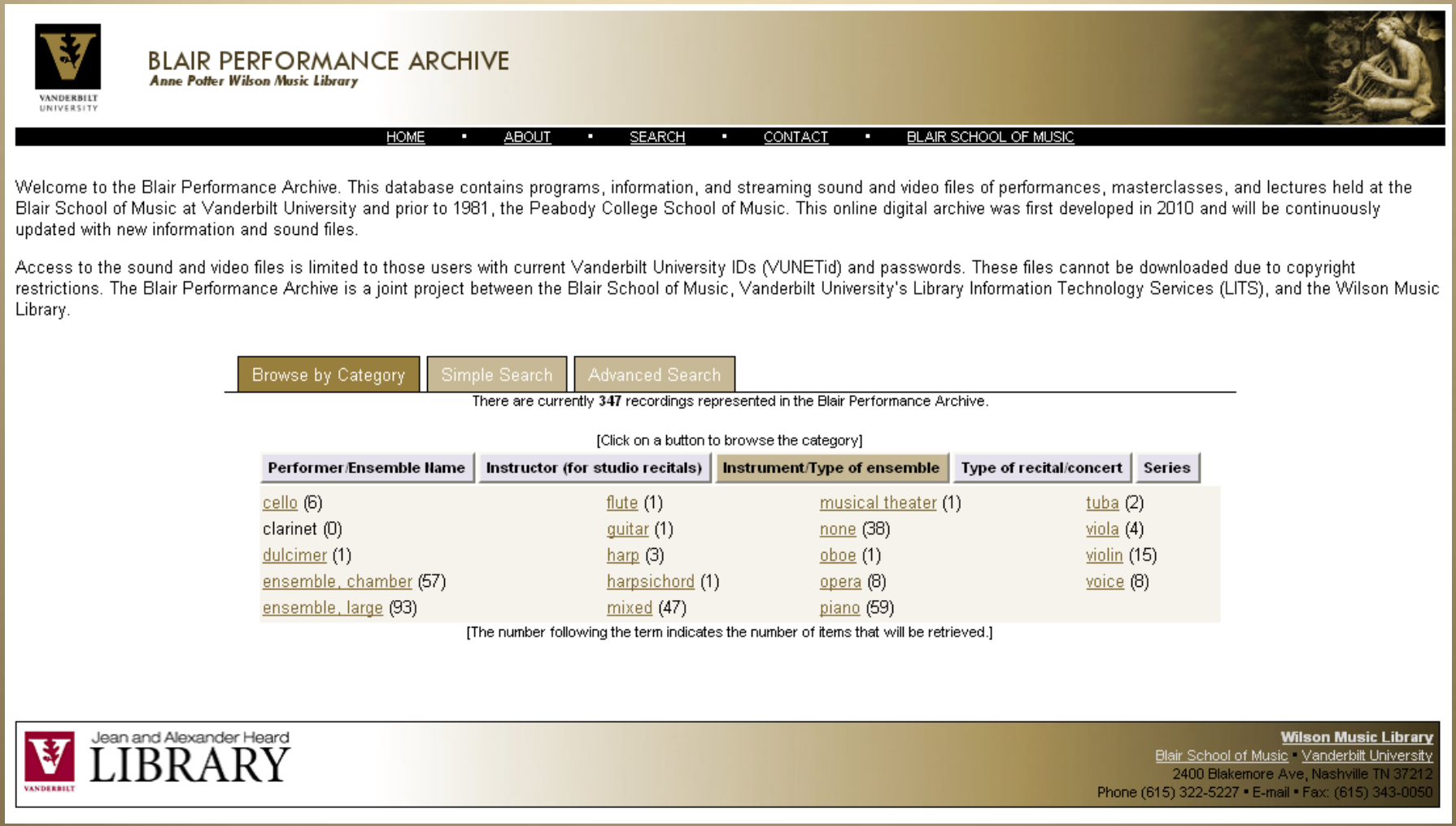

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Performer/Ensemble Name	Instructor (for studio recitals)	Instrument/Type of ensemble	Type of recital/concert	Series
cello (6)	flute (1)	musical theater (1)	tuba (2)	
clarinet (0)	guitar (1)	none (38)	viola (4)	
dulcimer (1)	harp (3)	oboe (1)	violin (15)	
ensemble, chamber (57)	harpsichord (1)	opera (8)	voice (8)	
ensemble, large (93)	mixed (47)	piano (59)		

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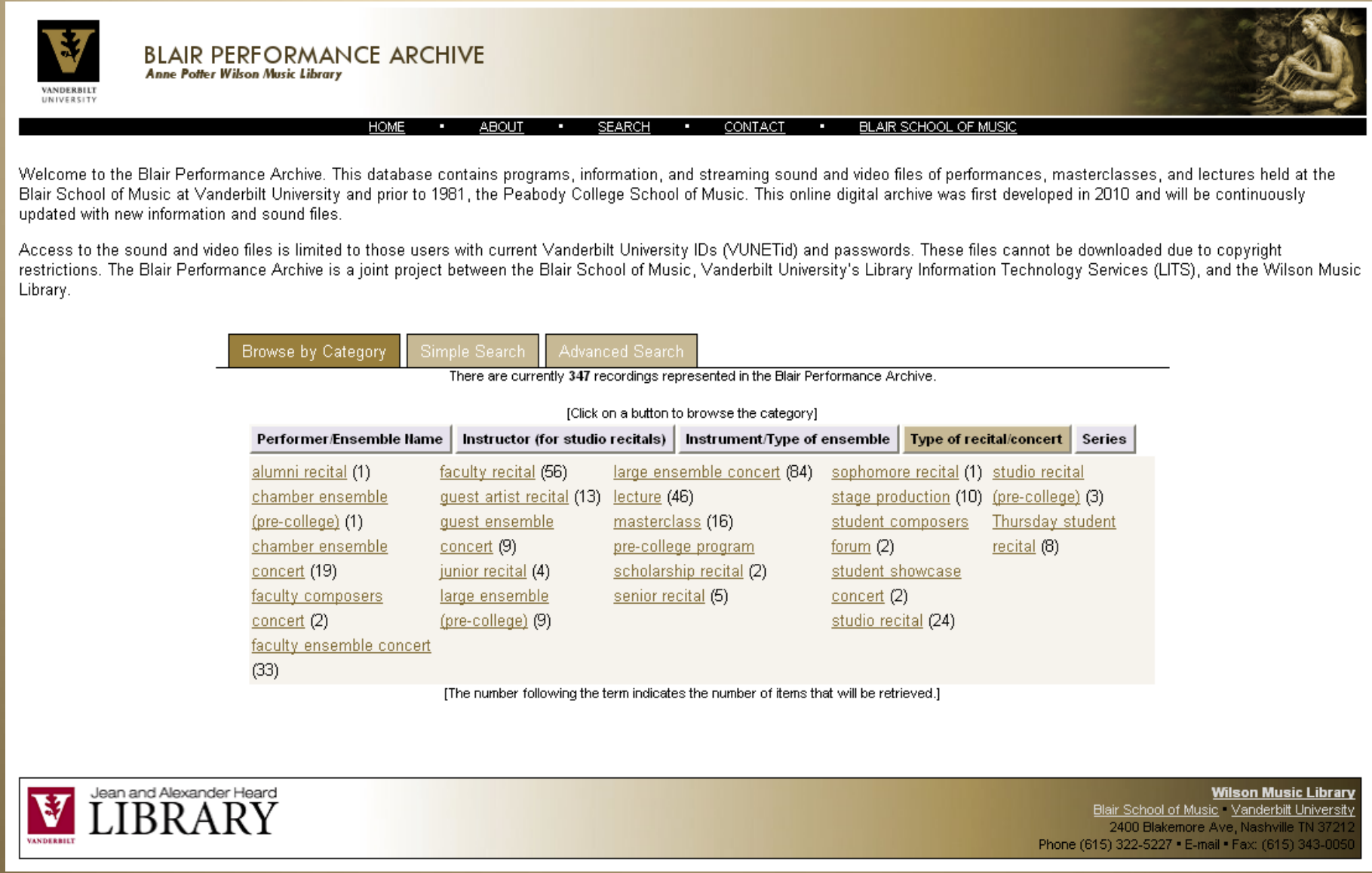

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Performer/Ensemble Name | **Instructor (for studio recitals)** | **Instrument/Type of ensemble** | **Type of recital/concert** | **Series**

alumni recital (1)
chamber ensemble (pre-college) (1)
chamber ensemble concert (19)
faculty composers concert (2)
faculty ensemble concert (33)
faculty recital (56)
guest artist recital (13)
guest ensemble concert (9)
junior recital (4)
large ensemble (pre-college) (9)
large ensemble concert (84)
lecture (46)
masterclass (16)
pre-college program
scholarship recital (2)
senior recital (5)
sophomore recital (1)
stage production (10)
student composers forum (2)
student showcase concert (2)
studio recital (24)
studio recital (pre-college) (3)
Thursday student recital (8)

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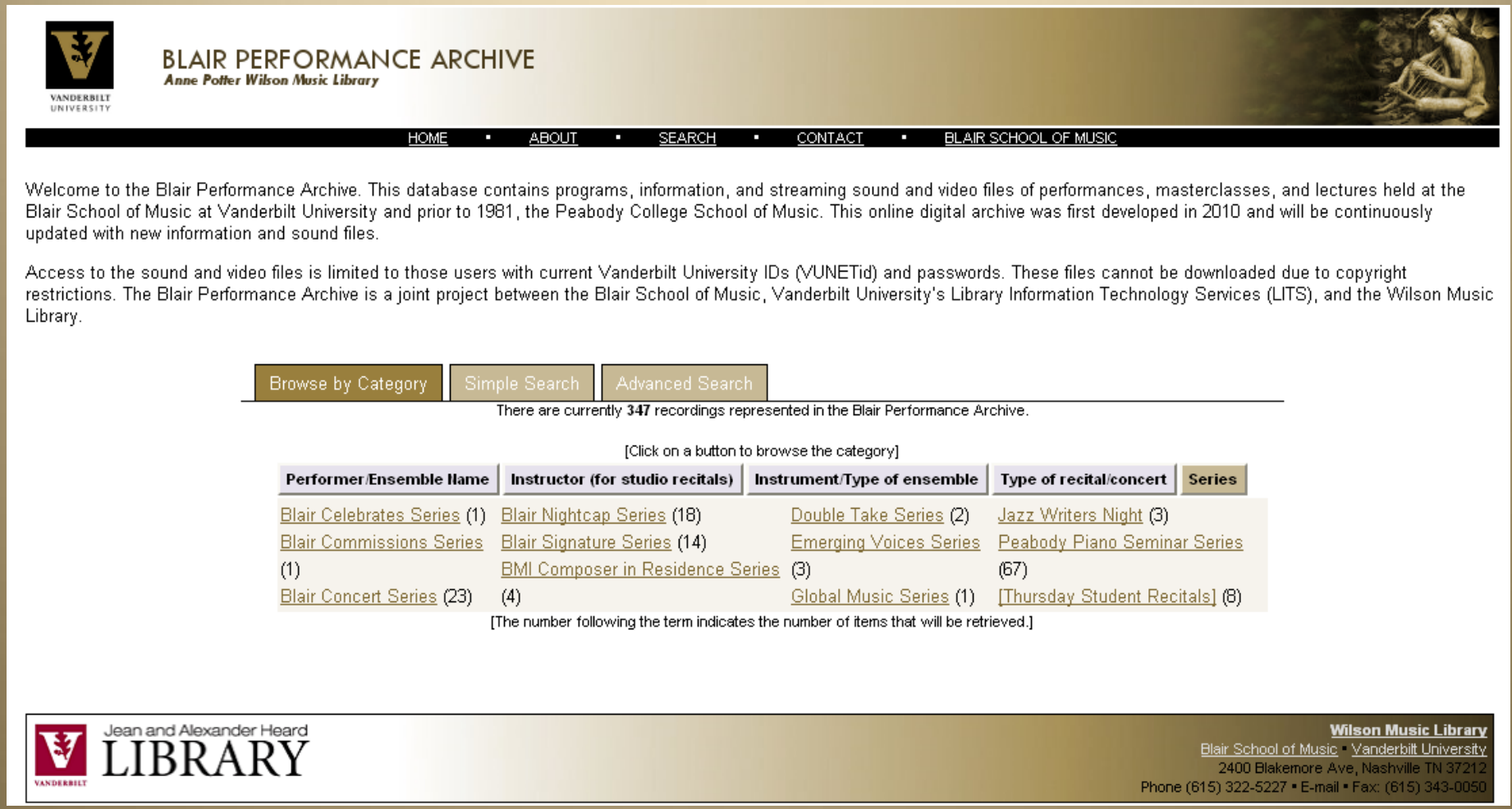

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Performer/Ensemble Name	Instructor (for studio recitals)	Instrument/Type of ensemble	Type of recital/concert	Series
Blair Celebrates Series (1)	Blair Nightcap Series (18)	Double Take Series (2)	Jazz Writers Night (3)	
Blair Commissions Series (1)	Blair Signature Series (14)	Emerging Voices Series (3)	Peabody Piano Seminar Series (67)	
Blair Concert Series (23)	BMI Composer in Residence Series (4)	Global Music Series (1)	[Thursday Student Recitals] (8)	

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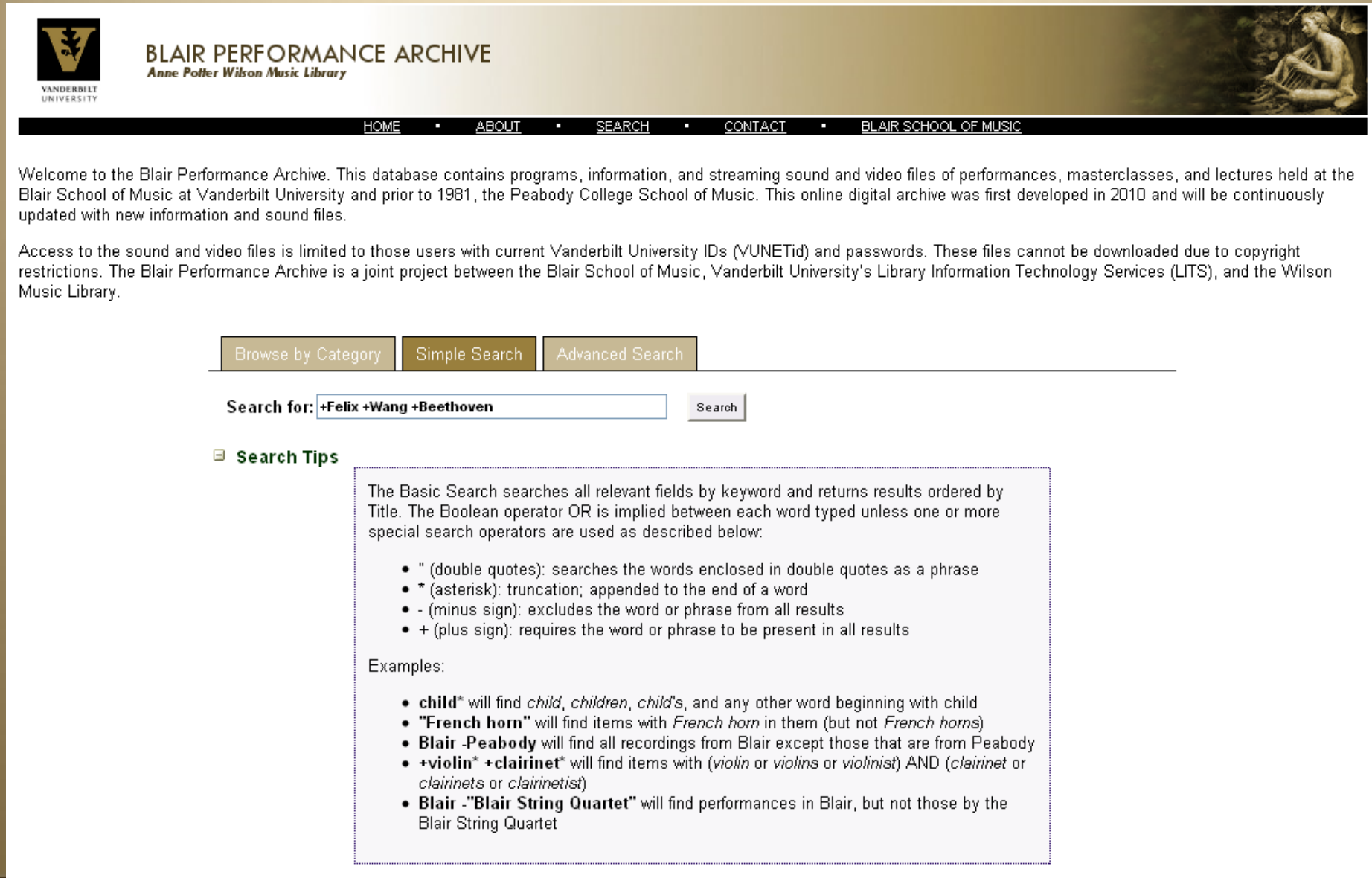

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Browse by Category | Simple Search | Advanced Search

Search for: +Felix +Wang +Beethoven Search

Search Tips

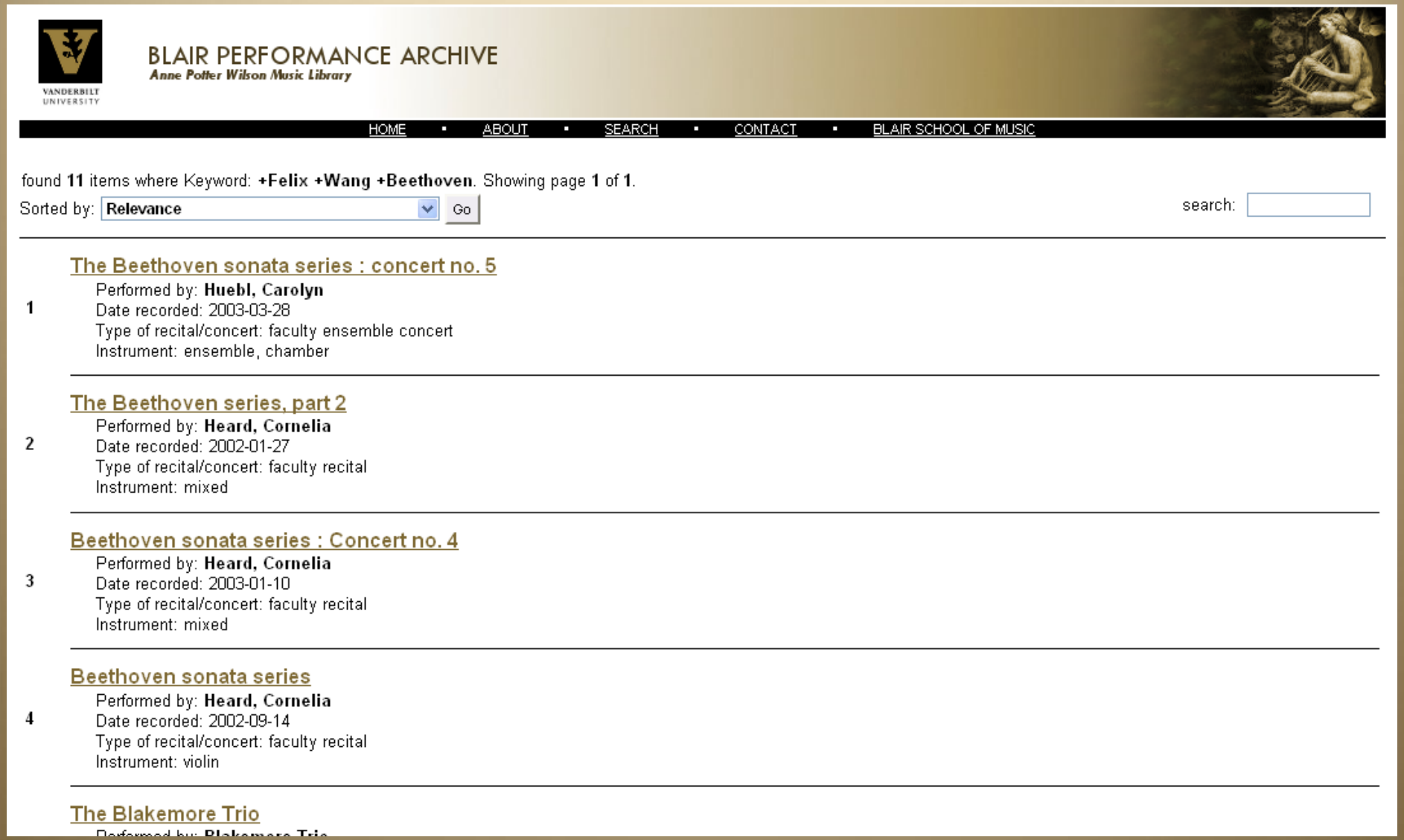
The Basic Search searches all relevant fields by keyword and returns results ordered by Title. The Boolean operator OR is implied between each word typed unless one or more special search operators are used as described below:

- " (double quotes): searches the words enclosed in double quotes as a phrase
- * (asterisk): truncation; appended to the end of a word
- - (minus sign): excludes the word or phrase from all results
- + (plus sign): requires the word or phrase to be present in all results

Examples:

- **child*** will find *child*, *children*, *child's*, and any other word beginning with child
- **"French horn"** will find items with *French horn* in them (but not *French horns*)
- **Blair -Peabody** will find all recordings from Blair except those that are from Peabody
- **+violin* +clairinet*** will find items with (*violin* or *violins* or *violinist*) AND (*clairinet* or *clairinets* or *clairinetist*)
- **Blair -"Blair String Quartet"** will find performances in Blair, but not those by the Blair String Quartet

Demonstration



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found **11** items where Keyword: **+Felix +Wang +Beethoven**. Showing page **1** of **1**.

Sorted by: **Relevance** Go search:

1 **The Beethoven sonata series : concert no. 5**
Performed by: **Huebl, Carolyn**
Date recorded: 2003-03-28
Type of recital/concert: faculty ensemble concert
Instrument: ensemble, chamber

2 **The Beethoven series, part 2**
Performed by: **Heard, Cornelia**
Date recorded: 2002-01-27
Type of recital/concert: faculty recital
Instrument: mixed

3 **Beethoven sonata series : Concert no. 4**
Performed by: **Heard, Cornelia**
Date recorded: 2003-01-10
Type of recital/concert: faculty recital
Instrument: mixed

4 **Beethoven sonata series**
Performed by: **Heard, Cornelia**
Date recorded: 2002-09-14
Type of recital/concert: faculty recital
Instrument: violin

The Blakemore Trio

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Browse by Category | Simple Search | Advanced Search

General Keyword: +Abbey +Simon

Title:

Name choose

Instrument: choose

Type of recital/concert: choose

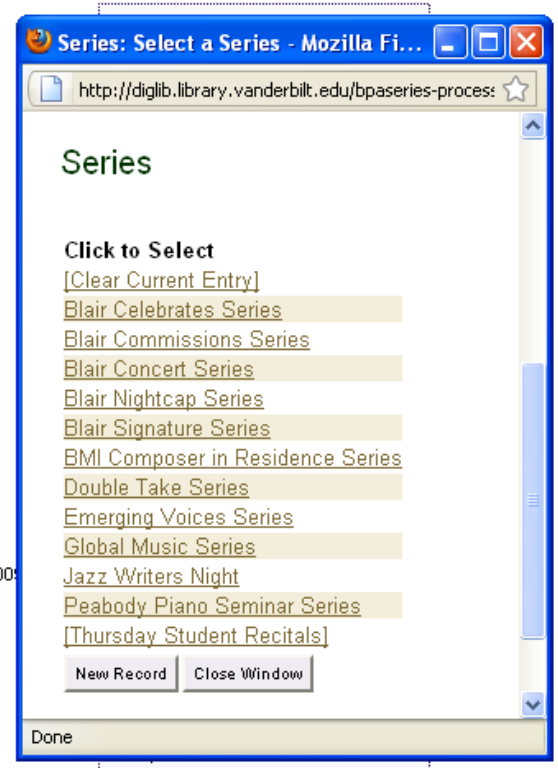
Series: Peabody Piano Seminar Series choose

Date: from through

[Use yyyy-mm-dd format for full dates. You may also use only year (ex. 200
year/month (ex. 1999-04 for April 1999).]

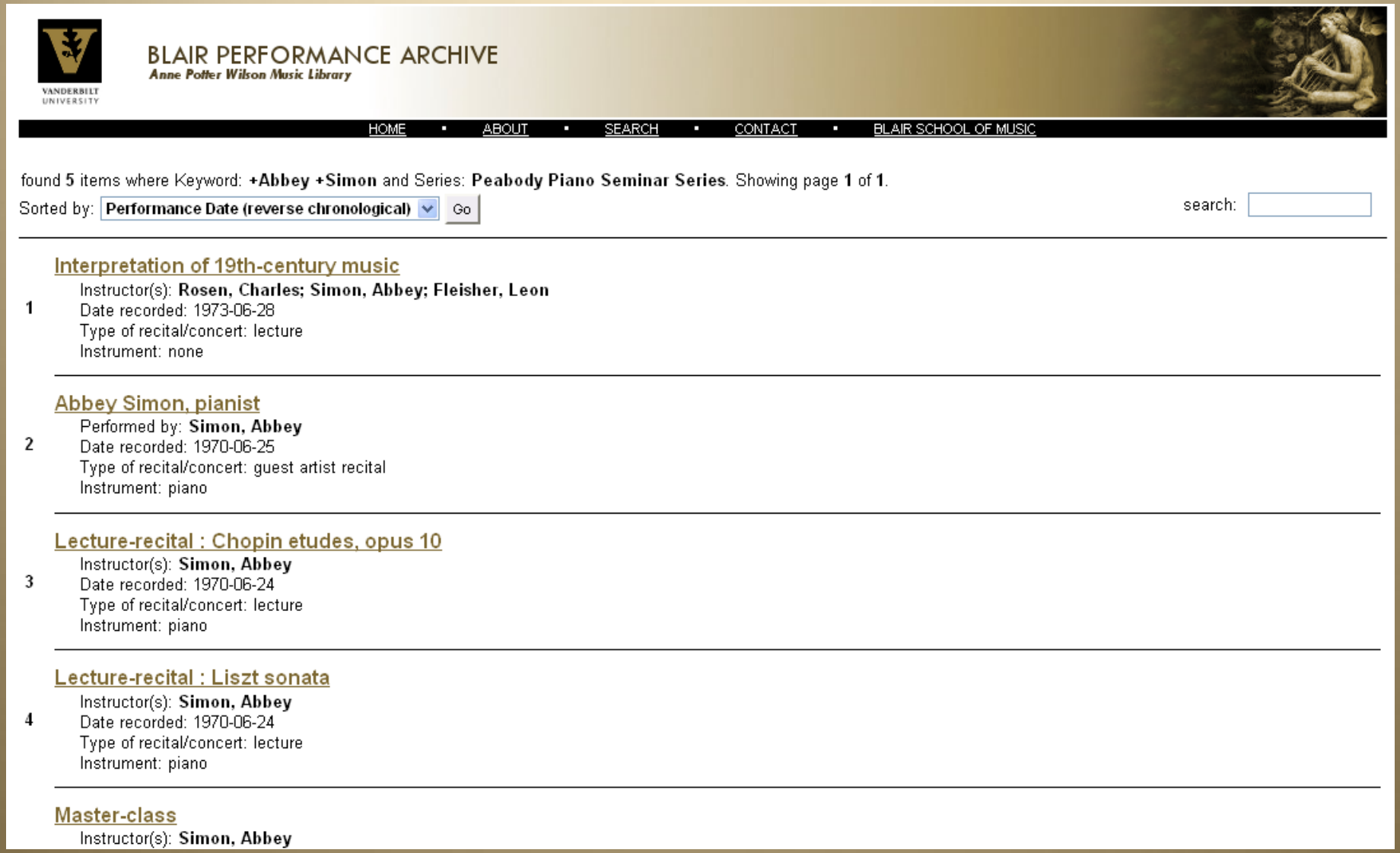
Sort results by:

- Name
- Title
- Date (Latest to Earliest)
- Date (Earliest to Latest)



• **child*** in the Title field will find

Demonstration



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found **5** items where Keyword: **+Abbey +Simon** and Series: **Peabody Piano Seminar Series**. Showing page **1** of **1**.

Sorted by: **Performance Date (reverse chronological)** Go

search:

1 **Interpretation of 19th-century music**
Instructor(s): **Rosen, Charles; Simon, Abbey; Fleisher, Leon**
Date recorded: 1973-06-28
Type of recital/concert: lecture
Instrument: none

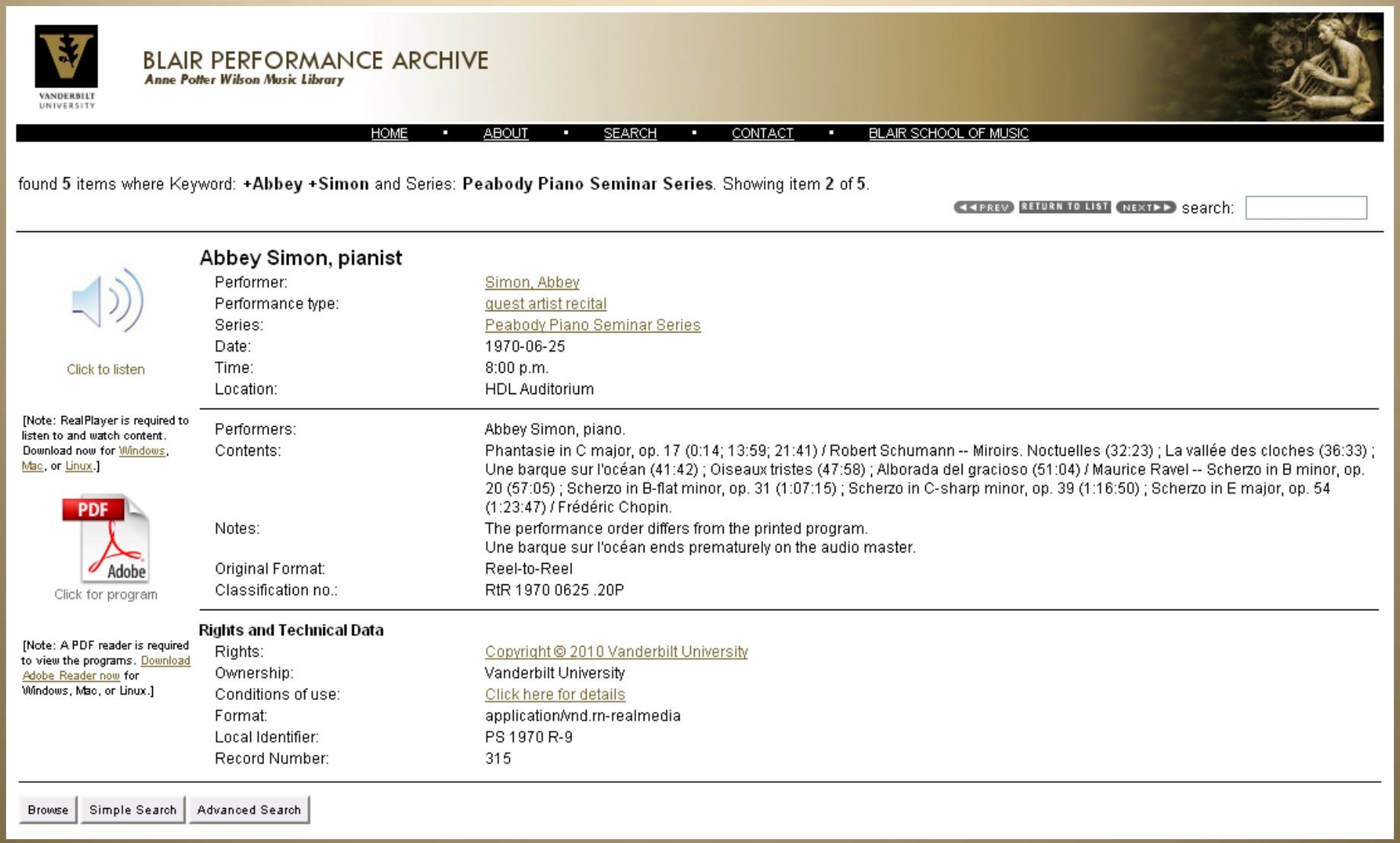
2 **Abbey Simon, pianist**
Performed by: **Simon, Abbey**
Date recorded: 1970-06-25
Type of recital/concert: guest artist recital
Instrument: piano

3 **Lecture-recital : Chopin etudes, opus 10**
Instructor(s): **Simon, Abbey**
Date recorded: 1970-06-24
Type of recital/concert: lecture
Instrument: piano

4 **Lecture-recital : Liszt sonata**
Instructor(s): **Simon, Abbey**
Date recorded: 1970-06-24
Type of recital/concert: lecture
Instrument: piano

Master-class
Instructor(s): **Simon, Abbey**

Demonstration



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found **5** items where Keyword: **+Abbey +Simon** and Series: **Peabody Piano Seminar Series**. Showing item **2** of **5**.

◄◄PREV RETURN TO LIST NEXT►► search:

Click to listen

[Note: RealPlayer is required to listen to and watch content. Download now for Windows, Mac, or Linux.]

Click for program

[Note: A PDF reader is required to view the programs. Download Adobe Reader now for Windows, Mac, or Linux.]

Abbey Simon, pianist

Performer:	Simon, Abbey
Performance type:	guest artist recital
Series:	Peabody Piano Seminar Series
Date:	1970-06-25
Time:	8:00 p.m.
Location:	HDL Auditorium

Performers:	Abbey Simon, piano.
Contents:	Phantasie in C major, op. 17 (0:14; 13:59; 21:41) / Robert Schumann -- Miroirs. Noctuelles (32:23) ; La vallée des cloches (36:33) ; Une barque sur l'océan (41:42) ; Oiseaux tristes (47:58) ; Alborada del gracioso (51:04) / Maurice Ravel -- Scherzo in B minor, op. 20 (57:05) ; Scherzo in B-flat minor, op. 31 (1:07:15) ; Scherzo in C-sharp minor, op. 39 (1:16:50) ; Scherzo in E major, op. 54 (1:23:47) / Frédéric Chopin.
Notes:	The performance order differs from the printed program. Une barque sur l'océan ends prematurely on the audio master.
Original Format:	Reel-to-Reel
Classification no.:	RtR 1970 0625 .20P

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Local Identifier:	PS 1970 R-9
Record Number:	315

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Anne Potter Wilson Music Library

Create or update a metadata record

Record #315

[Fields in red are required.]

Title and performer information

Title: Abbey Simon, pianist

Performers/Ensembles:** Simon, Abbey — choose

Instructor** — choose

[only use for masterclasses and studio recitals]

Instrument: piano — choose

Performance information

Type of Performance: guest artist recital — choose

Series: Peabody Piano Seminar Series — choose

Date: June 25 1970

Time: 8 00 p.m.

Location: HDL Auditorium — choose

Notes

Performers: Abbey Simon, piano.

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Repertoire/Content: Phantasie in C major, op. 17 (0:14; 13:59; 21:41) / Robert Schumann -- Miroirs. Noctuelles (32:23) ; La vallée des cloches (36:33) ; Une barque sur l'océan (41:42) ; Oiseaux tristes (47:58) ; Alborada del gracioso (51:04) / Maurice Ravel -- Scherzo in B minor, op. 20 (57:05) ; Scherzo in B-flat minor, op. 31 (1:07:15) ; Scherzo in

Other notes: The performance order differs from the printed program.
Une barque sur l'océan ends prematurely on the audio master.

Administrative information

Original format: Reel-to-Reel

Classification no.: RtR 1970 0625 .20P [uniform classification # of item (e.g., CD 2009 0929 .2OT)]

Local no.: PS 1970 R-9 [original classification # of item itself (e.g., PS 1973 L-10 v.1/1)]

Program link: RtR_1970_06XX_20P.pdf

Staff note:

Audio available? ☑ **Audio shadowed?** ☐

Link to audio file: RtR_1970_0625_20P.rm

Video available? ☐ **Video shadowed?** ☐

Link to video file:

Clone: ☐ Check here to create a duplicate record instead of saving the existing one

[**NOTE: The **Performer**/**Ensemble** and **Instructor** fields are mutually exclusive - that is, you cannot populate both, and you cannot leave both blank. One of them is always required depending on the situation.]

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Issues encountered

- Missing programs
  - Solution: If a student recital, a public note is added to the item record: *Program not submitted*.
- Unknown selections
  - Solution: Efforts are made to identify selections, but [Unknown selection] may be added as a last resort.
- Faulty masters
  - Solution: A public note is added where appropriate.

Future steps

- Further tweaking of metadata and system functionality
- Complete user name/password security features
- Formal launch and publicity
- Add video component for audiovisual files

Questions?

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The BPA: http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/bpa-browse.pl