Music in Libraries: Just the Basics

Music Reference Workshop
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Learning Outcomes:

- Name the questions to ask in a music reference interview.
- Identify the most common formats for music materials.
- Recognize the difficulties in finding songs and instrumental music, and how to overcome them.
- Name several online and print resources to use in answering music reference questions.
- List basic music reference materials your library may want to purchase.
Help Us Get To Know You!

- What type of library do you work in?
- What is your background?
- What kinds of music questions do you get?

Unique challenges in music:

- various formats
- various instrumentation (and various terminology) of the musical work
- various arrangements
- various participants
- various editions or performances
The Reference Interview – Questions to Ask the Patron

- Are you looking for printed music or a sound recording?
- If the patron needs a recording, it may be relevant to ask what type.
  - Can the patron check out from the library? Does it need to be a format she can play at home?
  - Would a video recording be more appropriate? (for a staged work like an opera, or to see the conductor, etc.)

Audio Formats

- compact discs
- digital (MP3, wav, streaming, etc.)
- records (LPs, 45s, 78s, etc.)
- tapes (cassettes, reel to reel, 8 track!)
Video Formats
- DVD
- Blu-ray
- VHS
- Laser disc

The Reference Interview
Continued – More Questions
- If the patron needs a score, it may be relevant to ask what type of score.
  - String quartet > Do you need a study score or performing parts?
  - Bassoon concerto > Do you need the full orchestral score or a piano reduction?
Print Formats

- full score (conductor’s score)
- miniature score (study score)
- vocal score (piano/vocal score)
- score and parts
- piano reduction
- choral score

And More Print Formats!

- sheet music
- fakebook (real book, lead sheet, chart)
- tablature
- facsimile
- libretto
Name that Tune!

a) Symphony no. 5
b) C-minor Symphony
c) Sinfonie Nr. 5, op. 67
d) Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony
e) All of the above
f) None of the above—this is a soundtrack by John Williams

Search Terms

- Generic titles
  - Symphony
  - Sonata
  - Concerto, etc.

- Instrumentation
  - Oboe, trumpet, violin...

- Composer
More Search Terms

- **Key**
  - A major, F# minor

- **Work numbers**
  - BWV (J. S. Bach) – BWV 825
  - K. (Mozart) – K. 331
  - Opus numbers – op. 1

Search Strategies

- **Composer (Mozart)**
- **Generic title (sonata, for example)**
- **Work number (op. 67)**
- **Instrumentation (flute)**

For example:....

Flute concerto no. 2 in D major, K. 314 / Mozart

mozart concerto flute 314
Your turn!

- Symphony no. 40 in G minor, K. 550 / Mozart

Nicknames

- Moonlight Sonata
  - Piano sonata no. 14 in C# minor, op. 27, no. 2

- Farewell Symphony
  - Symphony no. 45 in F# minor, H.I:45

- Emperor Concerto
  - Piano concerto no. 5 in E-flat, op. 73
Multiple languages

- Весна священная
- Vesna svia{к}shchennai{а}
  - Vesna svyashchennaya
- Fr{"u}hlingsopfer
- Sacre du printemps
- Rite of Spring
Part of a Larger Work?

- Song cycles
  - ‘Halt!’ from *Die schöne Müllerin*

- Sets of pieces
  - ‘Alborada del gracioso’ from *Miroirs*

- Operas
  - ‘O mio babbino caro’ from *Gianni Schicchi*

Collections

- Complete works
  - All of the works of one composer—often not analyzed

- Symphonies (and others) in collections
  - One composer, but often no table of contents

- Collections of pieces
  - ‘Italian songs of the 17th and 18th centuries for voice and piano’
Mozart Complete Works

Resources

- WorldCat
- Song indexes
- Web search
- Wikipedia(!)
Your Turn!

- Mozart symphony in C major, no. 41, K. 551
- Symphony no. 6, ‘Pathétique’ / Tchaikowsky
- Marriage of Figaro
- Im wunderschönen Monat Mai

Popular Music

- Anthologies
  - Bruce Springsteen Complete
  - Partial or No table of contents in catalog record
- Part of a larger work?
  - Musicals, Albums, Operas
- What’s the Title?
Finding Lyrics/Titles

- Use quotation marks to hold most-distinctive known lyrics together in Google – evaluate results with adequate suspicion

Your Turn!

- I’m looking for a song that was sung by Bing Crosby, possibly with the Andrew Sisters in the mid or late 1940’s. I’m not sure of the title but it may have been "Rosa Day". At any rate it had the phrase in it "The Bells Began to Ring Oh, As We Rode Away on a Mule."
- What is the actual title of the piece?
- Can you find a recording of it?
Reference Tools

- Dictionaries and encyclopedias
- Thematic catalogs
- Guides to research
- Discographies
- Song indexes
- Music databases
- Directories

Resources for Classical Music
History, Biography, and Terminology

- New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (print)
  / Grove Music Online (part of Oxford Music Online)

- AllMusic

- Harvard Dictionary of Music

- Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians
Subscription Databases for Music Information:

- Oxford Music Online
- Music Index Online
- International Index of Music Periodicals
- RILM

Resources for Popular Music

- Encyclopedia of Popular Music (print) / also available online
- AllMusic
- Billboard
- UT Song Index
- RoJaRo Index
- Center for Popular Music
- Official artist’s websites
- Twitter
- ASCAP, BMI, SESAC
Resources for World Music

- *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music* (print) / online version available from Alexander Street Press
- *Oxford Music Online*
- *AllMusic*

Free Sources for Online Scores

- *IMSLP* (International Music Score Library Project)
- *CPDL* (Choral Public Domain Library)
- *VARIATIONS* (Indiana University)
- *Art Song Central*
- *Hymnary*
- *Sheet Music Consortium*
Free Resources for Audio and Video

- YouTube
- Pandora
- Spotify
- Cylinder Preservation and Digitization Project (UCSB Special Collections)

Subscription Audio and Video Databases

- Naxos Music Library
- Alexander Street Press
- DRAM (Database of Recorded American Music)
Other Useful Resources

- WorldCat
- Google Scholar & Google Books
- General encyclopedias
- Biographies
- Liner notes
- MLA-L
- Wikipedia
- Theses and dissertations

Questions?

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