

*Google can bring you back, you know, a hundred thousand answers,
a librarian can bring you back the right one.*

Neil Gaiman

It is the responsibility of the librarian to know all things. Or, at the very least, to know where to find the answers to all things.

Every library should have some basic resources—books, monographs, websites—to help answer the questions that arise in the course of the day from conductors, music directors, personnel managers, players, and the music itself. This pamphlet lists fundamental resources for the performance library to help answer those questions.

The resources below are in three categories: Reference, for basic musical information; Bibliography, for lists of repertoire of various ensembles; and Professional Education, to teach performance library practices and procedures.

The categories are divided in two classifications: Essentials—items that should be in every library—and Advanced—a deeper dive into resources for libraries that serve a large and diverse clientele.

Within each category, the resources appear in order of their importance to the library, considering comprehensiveness, accuracy, and ease of use.

Finding the resources

For the websites listed below, the specific resources will be found further inside the site, past the main page. Because URLs occasionally change, lengthy addresses were truncated to the root site.

Most books can be purchased from music dealers or bookstores. Local independent bookstores can be located through www.indiebound.org. If the book is out of print, try online used book dealers, such as Alibris.com or AbeBooks.com.

For some of the advanced resources (especially the expensive multi-volume sets), it may be helpful to foster a professional or personal relationship with a local college or university library that supports a music degree program. Membership in a library consortium or a Friends of the Library group may allow access to their print and online collections.

Books in libraries can be located through WorldCat.org, which displays holdings from public, research, college, and university libraries. Create a free account to save information about your searches and to identify items in libraries near you.

ESSENTIALS

Reference

These items provide basic music information, useful to librarians for cataloging and to their players and conductors who need quick definitions of terms and other facts.

Ammer, Christine. *The A to Z of Foreign Musical Terms*. Boston, MA: ECS Publishing, 1989. 125 pages. ISBN 0911318151. \$12.00.

A handy, portable dictionary for the performer, containing many terms found in orchestral and ensemble music. Includes guides to Italian, German, and French pronunciation.

Kennedy, Michael, and Joyce Bourne Kennedy. *The Oxford Dictionary of Music*. 6th edition. Edited by Tim Rutherford-Johnson. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2012. 955 pages. ISBN 9780199578108. \$49.95. Paperback: ISBN: 9780199578542. \$18.99.

A comprehensive, single volume music dictionary that includes terms, personal and corporate names, and music titles. Useful for quick reference, there are citations in the text for web links that lead to in-depth information.

Del Mar, Norman. *A Companion to the Orchestra*. London: Faber and Faber, 1987. 266 pages. ISBN 0571147356, 0571147364 (paperback). Out of print. Also published as *The Anchor Companion to the Orchestra*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1987. ISBN 0385240813, 0385240821 (paperback). Out of print.

A helpful guide to the instruments, terminology, and the activities of the symphony orchestra, arranged in dictionary format.

Bibliography

Daniels, David. *Daniels' Orchestral Music*. 5th edition. Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015. 912 pages. ISBN 9781442245372. \$98.00. Online edition available by subscription at <https://daniels-orchestral.com>.

This is the essential guide to the orchestral repertoire. It provides instrumentation, duration, and publisher contact information, with appendices that classify the works by duration, instrumentation, and nationality. The online edition is regularly updated and expanded.

Professional Education

Girsberger, Russ, and Laurie Lake. *The Music Performance Library: A Practical Guide for Orchestra, Band, and Opera Librarians*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2011. 196 pages. ISBN 9781574631661. \$29.95.

A manual for beginning librarians, with step-by-step instructions for basic library procedures in acquisition, cataloging, music preparation, and performance.

Major Orchestra Librarians' Association. Publications Committee. "MOLA Guidelines for Music Preparation." [Philadelphia, PA]: Major Orchestra Librarians' Association, 2017. 11 pages. Available as a free resource from the MOLA website: <http://mola-inc.org>.

This pamphlet gives recommendations on formatting, proofreading, and binding parts and scores for music performance. It is essential information for performance librarians, but also a helpful guide for composers and arrangers who submit their work to your ensemble.

Tarlow, Lawrence, and Robert Sutherland. "The Music We Perform: An Overview of Royalties, Rentals and Rights." Revised edition. [Philadelphia, PA]: Major Orchestra Librarians' Association, 2004. 12 pages. Available as a free resource from the MOLA website: <http://mola-inc.org>.

A monograph explaining the copyright law as it pertains to music performance materials for rent, for sale, and in the public domain. It defines simple and grand rights as they relate to performing ensembles.

ADVANCED

Reference

The Grove Dictionary of Music.

The Grove Dictionaries are a family of scholarly reference books comprising the definitive music encyclopedias in the English language. Libraries may purchase the individual sets that best suit the needs of their ensemble(s):

The New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians. 2nd edition. (2001, 29 volumes)

The Grove Dictionary of American Music. 2nd edition. (2013, 8 volumes)

The New Grove Dictionary of Opera. (1992, 4 volumes)

The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz. 2nd edition. (2002, 3 volumes)

The Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments. 2nd edition. (2014, 5 volumes)

Or, if more than one dictionary is necessary, a subscription to *Grove Music Online* might be more practical, as it allows access to the Grove database that includes all of the books above, as well as *The Oxford Companion to Music* (2011) and the *Oxford Dictionary of Music* (2006). Subscription information and pricing is available at <https://www.oxfordmusiconline.com>.

Gould, Elaine. *Behind Bars: The Definitive Guide to Music Notation.* London: Faber Music, 2011. 676 pages. ISBN 9780571514564. \$99.99.

A detailed examination of common practice music notation, with many examples taken from contemporary repertoire.

Del Mar, Norman. *Anatomy of the Orchestra*. Revised edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981. 528 pages. ISBN 9780520045002; Paperback: Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987. ISBN 0520050622. Out of print; Reprint: London: Faber and Faber, 2014. ISBN 9780571250998. Out of print.

Del Mar describes the instruments and explains their typical individual and ensemble functions within the symphony orchestra. There are many examples of common and uncommon performance practice, notation, and terms found in the orchestral literature.

Fradkin, Robert A. *The Well-Tempered Announcer: A Pronunciation Guide to Classical Music*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996. 255 pages. ISBN 9780253210647. \$32.99.

Written by and for radio announcers, this guide has phonetic pronunciations for people, places, and composition titles. The accompanying essays describe how to form the sounds and include grammatical rules for each language.

Bibliography

These resources are for large performing groups, arranged by ensemble, so that libraries who support opera, ballet, or pops can easily locate the best resources for their repertoire.

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Meyer, Dirk. *Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble Repertoire: A Catalog of Modern Music*. Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2011. 444 pages. ISBN 9780810877313. \$101.00; Paperback: Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018. ISBN 9781538114612. \$50.00.

A catalog of 4,000 works, written after 1900, for seven or more players. Entries are divided into chamber orchestra (16+ players), ensemble (7–15 players), and string orchestra (any size). The appendices index works by instrumentation, duration, and soloist.

Saltonstall, Cecilia D., and Henry Saltonstall. *A New Catalog of Music for Small Orchestra*. Music Indexes and Bibliographies series, no. 14. Clifton, NJ: European American Music, 1978. 323 pages. ISBN 0913574147. Out of print.

A catalog of 6,380 compositions from the 1600s to 1970, written for a minimum of ten players, with a minimum of three string parts and a wind section of two to twelve parts. Entries are by composer only and there is no title index or other supplemental appendices included. It is not as detailed as Meyer, but covers more repertoire.

International Music Score Library Project. Petrucci Music Library. <http://imslp.org>.

IMSLP houses digital copies of public domain music. You can download scores and parts, and examine bibliographic information about those music editions. Use it for cataloging information, to replace missing parts in your library or, with some extra effort, to print performance materials for your ensemble.

The Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music in the Free Library of Philadelphia. Library catalog. <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/locations/departments/fleisher-collection>.

The Fleisher Collection is “the world’s largest circulating collection of orchestral performance sets.” They will loan music for performance, but their catalog is also helpful for researching information on standard orchestral repertoire and their own unique holdings.

ORCHESTRAL POPS MUSIC

Manning, Lucy. *Orchestral Pops Music: A Handbook*. 2nd edition Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2013. 476 pages. ISBN 9780810884229. \$115.00.

A bibliography of orchestral music for light classics, popular songs, Broadway and film themes, and other “pops” repertoire. Each entry includes instrumentation and publisher, along with a subject classification and several helpful indexes, although some information is incomplete or unconfirmed.

MOLA Pops Resources.

Available in the members only area of the MOLA website. Search the Contact Directory using the delimiter “Pops.” <https://mola-inc.org>.

OPERA MUSIC

Martin, Nicholas Ivor. *The Opera Manual*. Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2013. 480 pages. ISBN 9780810888685. \$104.00; Ebook: ISBN 9780810888692. \$98.50.

An update of *The Da Capo Opera Manual* (Da Capo Press, 1997), now with complete instrumentation and publisher information in the format of *Daniels’ Orchestral Music*. Some new works were added to this publication and other older works were removed. Includes indexes to arias and librettists.

Yaffé, John, and David Daniels. *Arias, Ensembles & Choruses: An Excerpt Finder for Orchestras*. Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2011. 550 pages. ISBN 9780810881662. \$133.00; Paperback: Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2018. ISBN 9781538114599. \$60.00.

A comprehensive guide to more than 1,750 excerpts from 450 operas. Each entry gives instrumentation, publication and edition information, keys, likely stop and start points, and the location of the excerpt in full and vocal score editions.

Clark, Mark Ross. *Guide to the Aria Repertoire*. Indiana Repertoire Guides series. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007. 607 pages. ISBN 9780253218100. \$40.00.

A guidebook for singers studying this repertoire, examining more than 400 arias arranged by voice type. Entries include vocal range, tessitura, and fach, along with a translation of the text and performance notes about the aria.

BALLET MUSIC

Naughtin, Matthew. *Ballet Music: A Handbook*. Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. 470 pages. ISBN 9780810886599. \$97.00; Paperback: Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. ISBN 9781538114582. \$50.00.

This is the invaluable resource for the ballet librarian, not only for information on the repertoire, but for the introductory chapters that explain how ballet works, its terminology and structure, and how it differs from the orchestral and opera world.

WIND ENSEMBLE AND BAND MUSIC

Gillaspie, Jon A., Marshall Stoneham, and David Lindsey Clark. *The Wind Ensemble Catalog*. Music Reference Collection series, no. 63. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1998. 444 pages. ISBN 9780313253942. \$75.00.

A catalog of more than 13,000 wind ensemble works from 1650 to the 1990s, based on an exhaustive examination of library collections and published editions. Background on the composers and their eras is in the authors' *Wind Ensemble Sourcebook and Biographical Guide* (Greenwood Press, 1997).

Winther, Rodney. *An Annotated Guide to Wind Chamber Music for Six to Eighteen Players*. Miami: Warner Bros. Publications, 2004. 439 pages. ISBN 0757924018. \$39.95.

A detailed survey of notable wind chamber music, including repertoire with soloists and with voices. The entries are arranged by size of ensemble, then by specific instrumentation, with duration, difficulty, publisher, and the author's comments on each work.

Rehrig, William H. *The Heritage Encyclopedia of Band Music*. Edited by Paul E. Bierley. Westerville, OH: Integrity Press, 1991. 2 volumes. ISBN 0918048087. Supplement (Volume 3), 1997. ISBN 0918048125. Out of print. Online edition available by subscription at www.hebm.info.

This is the most extensive bibliography of band music. It typically shows publisher and publication date, and often includes composer biographies and bibliographic citations, but it does not include instrumentation. An updated version is available online by subscription at <http://www.hebm.info>.

Renshaw, Jeffrey H. *The American Wind Symphony Commissioning Project: A Descriptive Catalog of Published Editions, 1957–1991*. Music Reference Collection series, no. 34. New York: Greenwood Press, 1991. 383 pages. ISBN 9780313281464. \$75.00.

This is a catalog of the published works commissioned by Robert Boudreau and his American Wind Symphony. The repertoire is contemporary and challenging, typically scored for a large orchestral wind section. Most of these works are available on a rental basis from C. F. Peters.

Cicconi, Christopher M. *The Band Music Handbook: A Catalog of Emerging Band Repertoire*. Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. 177 pages. ISBN 9781442268630. \$90.00. Ebook: ISBN 9781442268647. \$85.50.

A revision of the author's D.M.A. dissertation, updated to include repertoire mostly from the 1990s to the 2010s. The entries follow the Daniels model, but some abbreviations differ and the instrumentation is often unreliable.

CHORAL MUSIC

Green, Jonathan D., and David W. Oertel. *Choral-Orchestral Repertoire: A Conductor's Guide, Omnibus Edition*. Music Finders series. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019. 746 pages. ISBN 9781442244665. \$130.00; Ebook: ISBN 9781442244672. \$123.50.

This compilation combines and expands on repertoire covered in Green's previous six books, which examined choral repertoire from 1600 to the present.

DeVenney, David P. *American Choral Music Since 1920: An Annotated Guide*. Berkeley, CA: Fallen Leaf Press, 1993. 278 pages. ISBN 091491328X. Reprint: Scarecrow Press, 1994. ISBN 9780914913283. \$102.00.

An annotated bibliography of nearly 2,000 works by 76 composers, written between 1920 and 1993. Includes performing forces, publisher, duration, and source of the text, supplemented by an extensive bibliography.

DeVenney, David P. *Nineteenth-Century American Choral Music*. Berkeley, CA: Fallen Leaf Press, 1987. 182 pages. ISBN 0914913085. Paperback reprint: Scarecrow Press, 1987. ISBN 9780914913085. \$65.00.

An annotated bibliography of nearly 1300 works written from ca. 1800 to 1920, mostly by art music composers familiar to modern audiences (Beach, Chadwick, Griffes, etc.). DeVenney's other books on American choral music offer additional insight to this repertoire.

DeVenney, David P., and Craig R. Johnson. *The Chorus in Opera: A Guide to the Repertory*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1993. 203 pages. ISBN 0810826208. \$70.00.

An examination of nearly 600 choruses from 218 operas by 90 composers, identifying works that can be performed on their own, extracted from the context of the opera. Orchestral accompaniment instrumentation is not included.

Professional Education

Major Orchestra Librarians' Association. "Opera: Friend or Foe?: Asking the Right Questions for Opera Music Preparation." [Philadelphia, PA]: Major Orchestra Librarians' Association, 2009. 29 pages. Available as a free resource from the MOLA website: <http://mola-inc.org>.

A great introduction to preparing opera materials, with information on finding performance music, helpful reference sources, terminology, and warnings of potential pitfalls.

Naughtin, Matthew. "Ballet Music: A Survival Guide." [Philadelphia, PA]: Major Orchestra Librarians' Association, 2014. 49 pages. Available as a free resource from the MOLA website: <http://mola-inc.org>.

A detailed guide for the librarian working with ballet repertoire. It explains the structure and often confusing terminology of the field, and includes information on licensing and finding music, with suggestions on preparing the performance materials.

Girsberger, Russ, and Laurie Lake. *Insights and Essays on the Music Performance Library*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2012. 192 pages. ISBN 9781574631760. \$29.95.

A collection of articles by more than thirty professional librarians, editors, copyists, and conductors describing specific facets of library work.

Battisti, Frank, William Berz, and Russ Girsberger. "The Education of a Performance Librarian." In *Sourcebook for Wind Band and Instrumental Music*. Delray Beach, FL: Meredith Music Publications, 2014. 232 pages. ISBN 9781574631777. \$39.95.

This is bibliography of books, articles, and web resources classified by common tasks of the performance librarian, identifying appropriate readings on processes and common practices. Other library articles discuss choosing editions, errata, cataloging, and notation resources.

Lo, Patrick. *Conversations with the World's Leading Orchestra and Opera Librarians*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016. 276 pages. ISBN 9781442255425. \$102.00; Ebook: ISBN 9781442255432. \$96.50.

Interviews with seventeen professional performance librarians who describe their background, experience, and the characteristics and responsibilities of their work in a variety of ensembles. A valuable way to learn this profession is to study how others do the job.