



SIBLEY MUSIC LIBRARY

Searching Guides—Songs

This guide is designed to help you find solo music for the voice. Use this as a starting point, or browsing tool. As always, consult Voyager and the catalogs for complete holdings information, and when uncertain, ask at the Reference Desk!

Suggested Call Numbers for Browsing Shelves for Editions

Below are general call number ranges. For specific call numbers, consult the Library of Congress Classification Schedule in the yellow book at the Reference Desk, and/or Voyager.

Secular Vocal Music

M1528 - M1529.5	duets, trios etc., for solo voices
M1611 - M1626	songs for one voice
M1627	national songs
M1628 - M1677.8	United States
M1630.18	Popular songs

Sacred Vocal Music

M2018 - M2019.5	duets, trios, etc.
M2102 - M2114.8	songs for one voice

Suggested Searching Strategies

Below are examples of some useful search strategies and subject headings for use in Voyager. For complete listings of subject headings, consult the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (red books). Also, do not forget to search the Card Catalog for LPs.

1. **Using Custom Search/Boolean.** This is the default search tab when initiating Voyager. In the “Search for:” box type any distinctive words from the title of the song and the last name of the composer (if known); from the “any of these” drop down menu, select “all of these”; leave the box that says “search anywhere” alone.
2. **To Decrease the number of items retrieved.** Use the Limit button. Some kinds of searches can be Limited by Date of publication (exact or by range), Type of material (e.g. scores or recordings), Location (e.g. Sibley library), Language (e.g. only English), and other parameters.
3. **To Increase the number of items retrieved.** Try typing only the title of the song, and select “as a phrase” from the drop down menu. Or, type the composer’s name and “songs” and limit by Type and location (often collections of songs are not completely indexed, and you might have to look through the items on the shelves if a Table of Contents tab does not show for an individual bibliographic record).
4. **Use an Index.** Many song collections that are not indexed in Voyager have been indexed by various books of indexes (a list of which are on the other side of this page). Find out in which collection a song is located, then search for the title of the collection.
5. **Using the Record Card Catalog.** If looking for a specific “art” song, search under the composer’s name, and then under [Songs. Selections] to find anthologies. Contents may or may not be listed.

Selected Bibliography of Repertoire Lists and Indexes

- Clifton, Keith E. *Recent American Art Song: A Guide*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2008. Ref. ML128.S3 C639 2008
- Coffin, Berton. *Singer's Repertoire*. NY: Scarecrow Press, 1962. Ref. ML128 .V87 C675.2
- _____. *Word-by-Word Translations of Songs and Arias*. NY: Scarecrow Press, 1972. Ref. ML54.6 C675W (See other translation books in the ML54 section of reference)
- De Charms, Desiree and Paul F. Breed. *Songs in Collections: An index*. Detroit: Information Service, 1966. Ref. ML128 .S3 D293
- Doscher, Barbara, ed. and annotated by John Nix. *From Studio to Stage: Repertoire for the Voice*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2002. Ref. ML127.V7 D717 2002
- Emmons, Shirlee and Wilbur Watkin Lewis. *Researching the Song: A Lexicon*. London: Oxford UP, 2006. Ref. ML102.S6 E54 2006
- Eslinger, Gary S. *Classical Vocal Music in Print*. Philadelphia: Musicdata, Inc., 1986. Ref. ML118 .M988 vol.4s, 1986
- Espina, Noni. *Repertoire for the Solo Voice: A Fully Annotated Guide to Works for the Solo Voice Published in Modern Editions and Covering Material from the 13th Century to the Present*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1977. ML128 .S3 E77
- Ferguson, Gary Lynn. *Song Finder: A Title Index to 32,000 Popular Songs in Collections, 1854-1992*. Music Reference Collection, no. 46. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995. Ref. ML128.S3 F352 1995
- Gargan, William and Sue Sharma. *Find that Tune*. NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1988. Ref. ML128.R6 F494 1988
- Goodfellow, William D. *SongCite: An Index to Popular Songs*. NY: Garland Publishing, 1995. Ref. ML128.P63 G65 S69 1995
- _____. *Where's that Tune?: An Index to Songs in Fakebooks*. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, 1990. Ref. ML128.P63 G65 1990
- Goleeke, Thomas. *Literature for Voice*. Metuchen, NJ The Scarecrow Press, 1984. Ref. ML128.S3 G625 1984
- Havlice, Patricia Pate. *Popular Song Index*. Metuchen, NJ : Scarecrow Press, 1975. Ref. ML128 .S3 H38, plus supplements 1978, 1984, 1989, 2005
- Kagen, Sergius. *Music for the Voice: A Descriptive List of Concert and Teaching Material*, rev. ed. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1968. Ref. ML128.V87 K11 1968
- Leigh, Robert. *Index to Song Books*. NY: Da Capo Press, 1973. Ref. ML128.S3L529 I
- Luchinsky, Ellen. *The Song Index of the Enoch Pratt Library*. 2 Vols. NY: Garland, 1998. Ref. ML 128.S3 L936 1998
- Ord, Alan J. *Songs for Bass Voice: An Annotated Guide to Works for Bass Voice*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1994. Ref. ML132.S6 O65 1994
- _____. *Songs For Beginning Bass Voice: With Annotated Guide to Works for Beginning Bass Voice*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 2002. Ref. ML132.S6 O65 2002
- Pollock, Bruce. *The Rock Song Index*. NY: Schirmer Books, 1997. Ref ML128.R6 P776 1997
- Whitter, John and Ruth Watts. *Song Index: Popular Songs and Where to Find Them*. London: Association of Assistant Librarians, 1981. Ref. ML128.S3 W62 1981

Sibley Library maintained a card-file index to its vocal collection that can still be useful. Look in the small set of card-file drawers near the Alec Wilder Reading Room.

Internet Resources

- The Aria Database (<http://www.aria-database.com/>)
- Country Music Index (<http://odin.indstate.edu/cgi.dir/country.pl>)
- Index to Arias and Art Songs in Collections (<http://db.lib.washington.edu/arias/>)
- The Lied and Song Texts Page (<http://www.recmusic.org/lieder/>)
- Popular Song Database (<http://www.lib.washington.edu/asp/databases/music/PopSongBrowse.asp>)
- UTK Song Index (<http://www.lib.utk.edu/music/songdb/index.php>)
- The Website for Adventurous Singers (<http://www.daringdiva.com>)