Library

Finding music in

complete/collected editions

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# Introduction

The Library has an extensive collection of complete and collected musical editions. This guide will tell you more about what these are, why they are useful and how to find them.

# What are complete/collected editions?

Collected editions are sets of musical works, usually published in a number of volumes. In general there are two types of collected edition: 1) the complete works of an individual composer, and 2) works of various composers, usually brought together by time period, geographical region or genre. Examples of 1) are *Liszt Neue Ausgabe samtlicher Werke* (New edition of the complete works) and *Le opere complete di Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*. Examples of 2) are *Musica Britannica* and *Denkmaler der Tonkunst in Osterrich* (works composed in a particular geographical area) and *Recent Researches in the Music of the Baroque Era* (works composed during a particular time period). You will generally find that complete works only exist for relatively well known composers. For lesser composers you will usually only find their works in a collected edition such as those described in 2) above. Collected editions are put together by specialists who examine manuscripts and early printed sources in an effort to determine a definitive version of a work that most accurately represents the composer’s intentions. They are usually published over a number of years, and some run to over 100 volumes. Collected editions tend to be used as a source for study rather than performance.

# Why would I need to use them?

You’ll find that the Library does not always have individual scores of some of the works that you need to study. However, these works may be contained within a collected edition - either in the complete works of the composer in question, or in a series such as *Denkmaler deutscher Tonkunst*. In other words, the only place you may be able to find some works is within a collected edition.

# Where are they located in the Library?

The collected editions in the Library are kept at the beginning of the score section (or, in other words, at the end of the book section). Collections such as *Musica Britannica* all have a shelf mark beginning with K (e.g. **Music K215 1951-MUS**). Collected editions of an individual composer’s works have a shelf mark beginning with L (e.g. the collected works of Buxtehude, Dietrich *Buxtehudes Werke* has the shelf mark **Music LB960 1925**).

# Can I search and find individual works within collected editions?

Not always. We catalogue individual volumes of collected editions themed by period/geographical area/genre (e.g. Recent researches in the music of the Baroque era) but we until recently we have not catalogued individual volumes of composer collected editions. These are being added gradually, but it will take some time. So you will be able to find the general shelf mark for, e.g. the collected works of Bach, but not always the full details of what is in each individual volume.

# So how do I find individual works within collected editions?

First search normally using **Specific Search for Music scores** search.

If you cannot find the work by searching there are two books you can use to try and establish which collected edition a work is contained within:

You can use a book by Anna Heyer called *Historical sets, collected editions and monuments of music: a guide to their contents*. The shelf mark for this is **Music Bibliog K10 1980-H**. This has two volumes. Use volume 1 if you think there is likely to be a collected edition containing the complete works of a composer. Use Volume 2 if you this is not the case.

Volume 1 consists of a list of composers names. Listed for each composer is the title of the collected editions of their work, followed by the contents of each volume. Note that for some composers there is more than one edition of their complete works. (Also note that the Library will usually only have one edition of a composers complete works, so make sure that we have the collected edition in question by doing a search for the overall title.) So if you looked up Mozart, you could find out which volume of his collected works contains the Symphony no.15 by browsing through the list. Some pieces may not be listed specifically, but more generally, e.g. Heyer may just say that Volume 7 of a particular collected edition contains cantatas (without listing the individual titles of the cantatas). Volume 1 does lists the contents of collected editions such as *Musica Britannica*, but it would take a long time to browse through this. If you think a piece is likely to be in a collected edition such as *Musica Britannica* or *Denkmaler der Tonkunst in Osterrich*, you should use Volume 2 instead.

Volume 2 is also a list of composers’ names. This time each of their works or types of works is listed alongside an indication of which collected edition you will find that work in. Use volume 2 if you are not sure which collected edition to look in for a work. Volume 2 is generally more useful for less well known composers, as you can quickly match a specific piece to a specific collected edition.

In some cases you will find that a piece is contained within more than one collected edition. However, the Library does not have all of the collected editions available, so remember to search for the overall title to make sure that we have it.

Finally the book by Anna Heyer was published in 1980, so volumes of collected editions published since then will not be mentioned. An alternative book is one by Hill and Stephens called *Collected editions, historical series and sets and monuments of music: a bibliography* (Music Bibliog K10 1997-H). This is not as comprehensive as the Heyer book, but it is more up to date, and will include more recently published volumes of collected editions.

You can also use **Grove Music Online** to locate works within collected editions. To do this, look up the composer by surname. For most composers there is a works list at the end of the dictionary entry. If the complete works of a composer have been published, the entry will often give the details of the collected edition followed by a list of the works. Alongside each work is a section indicating which volume of the collected edition the work is in. In some cases there will be more than one set of complete works, so each set is given an abbreviation (e.g. in the case of Schubert, NS and NAS - if the entry was 2 ; iv 3 this would mean that in the NS edition the work was in vol. 2 and in the NAS edition it was in vol. iv.3.

If the complete works of a composer have not been published, Grove usually indicates which collected editions a composer’s works can be found in. Again, collected editions are given an abbreviation and the volume numbers are indicated.

If the composer is not prolific or well know there may be no work list in Groves. If this is the case you will have to use the Heyer book instead.

In the case of the collected works of a specific composer, you will often find that there is an index at the front of each volume which gives a general indication of what types of work are in which volume. You can then find the work you want without looking up either of the books mentioned above. However, it’s a good idea to use these books, as otherwise it may take you much longer to find what you are looking for!

# Get more help

If you need help with finding scores and sheet music contact Morag Greig, College Librarian for Music (morag.greig@glasgow.ac.uk).