Library

Finding scores and sheet music

Table of Contents

[Introduction 3](#_Toc18327472)

[How do I search for a score or piece of sheet music? 3](#_Toc18327473)

[Types of score 3](#_Toc18327474)

[Finding a score on the shelves 3](#_Toc18327475)

[Borrowing scores and sheet music 4](#_Toc18327476)

[More information about scores and sheet music 4](#_Toc18327477)

[Can’t find what you’re looking for? 4](#_Toc18327478)

[Get more help 5](#_Toc18327479)

# Introduction

The Library has a large collection of scores and sheet music. This guide will tell you how to search for them and find them on the shelf.

# How do I search for a score or piece of sheet music?

Via **Specific Search** on the Library home page choose **Music scores** from the list. Type the details of the piece of music you are looking for into the search box, e.g. composer and title. If the title of the work is unusual (e.g. ‘The Lark ascending’) you may not need to include the composer, but if you are looking for a work such as a symphony, a quartet or a concerto it’s best to include the composer name too. You can also include the number of the work, opus number and key signature. However, initially it’s best to keep your search simple.

**Tip**:use the \* symbol to pick up different forms of a word, e.g. symphon\* will find symphony, symphonie and symphonies.

Click on any of the titles to see more detail.

You can also type your search directly into Library Search on the Library home page, but results for scores and sheet music often don’t appear at the top of the list of results.

# Types of score

When you are looking for scores you may come across some with a shelf-mark like this: **Music mTM800.525 299-GER**. The small **m** at the start of the shelf-mark tells you that it is a **miniature score**. These scores are smaller than normal scores and are kept at the end of the main score section. You would use them to study the music - they are generally too small to play from. You will find that a lot of orchestral works come in the form of miniature scores.

There are a few very large scores which are known as **folios** (e.g. **Music fM5:A40 ROM**). Folios always have a small f at the start of their shelf mark. They are kept on a shelf just before the start of the miniature score sequence.

# Finding a score on the shelves

Once you have found the score that you want, write down the **shelf mark** e.g. Music SS300.520 667-BRE. Use the range guides at the end of each shelf and the map of Level 4 to locate the right area. If you have problems locating a score on the shelves, please ask for help.

# Borrowing scores and sheet music

Most scores can be borrowed as if they were books**.** Some scores may occasionally be marked ‘For Reference Only’ or ‘For Consultation Only’ – this means that you can only use them within the Library.

# More information about scores and sheet music

To find out if a score also has parts that you can play from click on the title on the results page and look at the **Physical description** (Phys. Descr.) information, e.g. 1 score 5 parts. You will find that the Library does not always hold performing parts for all works - sometimes only a score will be available. The Physical Description will also indicate if the score is a miniature score.

# Can’t find what you’re looking for?

We will usually have at least one copy of most standard works**,** unless they are very uncommon.

* Try searching again and use fewer search terms
* Check that you are using the correct spelling

If you still can’t find what you are looking for, remember that you may find the work in the composer Collected Editions section. These are **multi-volume sets of works**, sometimes of a specific composer and sometimes a specific genre of music. An example is *Friedrich Chopin’s Werke* which is at Music LC400 1878. This set contains the complete works of Chopin. Often you will find that they contain works which we do not have individual scores of. The main thing to know about them is that in many cases the individual volumes of collected editions are not listed separately. To find out how to locate works within collected editions see the guide on Collected Editions.

# 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).