

SEARCHING FOR VOICE MUSIC IN LIBRARY CATALOG

To find CDs, click on the “Basic” search tab (usually, the default) and select “Sound recordings/Compact discs” from the drop-down menu below the search box.

To find Scores, click on the “Advanced” search tab, scroll down until you see the drop-down menu for Type. Select “Musical score” from the drop-down menu.

a. Looking for a specific piece

Note: Finding individual songs can sometimes be tricky, since songs are often found in anthologies or larger works.

- Do a title search for your song title or, if it is part of a larger work.(e.g., an aria from an opera), do a title search of the larger work. Enter your song title in the search box and change the drop down menu to “Title begins with...”
- No luck? Type the title of the song **in quotes** and try doing a Keyword search.
example: “Caro mio ben”
- Still no? Next, try searching for the composer’s name and the keyword “Songs” by changing the dropdown menu to “Boolean keyword”. This will pull up collections of songs by that composer and your song may be in one of those collections.
example: Purcell and songs
- If you can't find your song in the Library catalog, the next step is to look in some print indexes to song collections. These list the contents of many printed collections of songs. If you find your song listed, search the Library Catalog for the collection it is in to see if we own it. Three of the most useful song indexes in the Library’s Reference section are:
 - ▶ ***Literature for Voice: An Index of Songs in Collections and Source Book for Teachers of Singing*** by Tom Goleeke. (ML128.S3 G64)
 - ▶ ***Songs in Collections: An Index*** by Desiree De Charms (ML128.S3 D37)
 - ▶ ***Song Index: An Index to More Than 12,000 Songs in 104 Song Collections*** by Minnie Earl Sears. (ML128.S3 S31 1966)

b. Searching for voice music without a specific song in mind (e.g., get ideas for music to sing)

If you just want to find a general collection of songs, you can search the Library Catalog by Subject. Here are two ways to do this:

- Search for all the different headings for your voice range by doing a Keyword search for your voice range
- Click on Basic search tab (usually the default)
- Type in the phrase you want from the 3 listed below.
- “High voice” (for sopranos and tenors)
- “Medium voice (for mezzo-sopranos and baritones)
- “Low voice” (for altos and basses)

Note: Sometimes mezzos or baritones may want to also search the high or low voice music as well.

- On the [Basic] search screen, enter one of the following Subject headings and change the drop down menu to “Subject begins with”:
- ▶ **Songs (High voice)** *[or try Medium voice or Low voice]*
- ▶ **Sacred songs (High voice)**
- ▶ **Operas -- Excerpts -- Vocal scores with piano** *(for opera arias)*
- ▶ **Solo cantatas**
- ▶ **Cantatas (Sacred) -- Excerpts** *(for arias from cantatas)*

c. Combination searches

- Try particular voice and composer, song title, type of composition, type of accompaniment, etc.

Examples: Mozart and soprano and organ
 Mozart and “high voice” and songs
 Songs and “high voice” and harp
 “Se tu m’ami” and “low voice”

d. Translations of songs

- Click on [Subject] tab
- enter Songs and Translations to find collections of translations (usually of art songs)

Can’t find something?

- Try WorldCat and see if you can order it on Interlibrary Loan.
- **Also, let Lawrie Merz, your liaison librarian, know! Often, we will order a copy for the library’s collection if you are looking for something we don’t have.**