Finding Music for Oboe in Western’s Music Library

The Western Libraries Music Library contains a wealth of music for the oboe major. Some of this repertoire will be found in obvious locations, while other important repertoire is scattered throughout the collection.

1. Finding a KNOWN piece of music

Any piece of music for which you know the composer and the title may be searched in the Western Libraries Catalogue at www.lib.uwo.ca

Choose the KEYWORD (a.k.a. 'Boolean') option of the Catalogue; combine the composer’s name with a unique title, opus number, and/or thematic catalogue number. This will help to narrow your search, and find desired items quickly:

**e.g.**, Hindemith sonataS oboe

should retrieve Hindemith’s oboe sonata - both scores and recordings (note the use of the PLURAL OF THE GENRE - sonataS - use of the plural is required to find scores and recordings!).

**e.g.** concertos oboe part

will retrieve those editions (piano reductions) which come with a separate oboe part

If you are unsure of titles, opus or thematic catalogue numbers, refer to the repertoire guides listed below or consult “Works” lists in articles on individual composers in The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (29 vols.). This resource is available online to registered Western students, faculty and current staff members.

Don’t forget to look in collections of music by your composer (the library finds it cheaper and more convenient to buy all the sonatas of a composer in one volume than to purchase single sonatas, etc.).

The Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue is accessible to everyone at www.lib.uwo.ca

However, your Western Identity and password are REQUIRED to access our licensed electronic resources (i.e. E-books, E-journals, online journal indexes, Opera in Video Online, NAXOS Music Library, and DRAM (20th - 21st century art music.)

2. Browsing on the shelf for music

Most, but not all, oboe music can be found in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 65 - 69</td>
<td>(oboe alone with no accompaniment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 245 - 247</td>
<td>(oboe with piano or continuo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 460 - 464</td>
<td>(oboe with strings – quartets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 560 - 564</td>
<td>(oboe with strings – quintets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 1022</td>
<td>(oboe with full orchestra, concertos, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 1023</td>
<td>(oboe with piano reduction of concertos, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 1122</td>
<td>(oboe with string orchestra, concertos, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 1123</td>
<td>(oboe with piano reduction of string orchestra part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT 360 - 376</td>
<td>(studies and methods for oboe and English horn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT 366</td>
<td>(orchestral excerpts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete explanation of these - and other call numbers, see the book LC Classification / Class M, Music located near the Reference Desk.
While you are welcome and encouraged to browse, please refrain from removing ALL scores from a single classification from the shelf.

Please be advised that Music Library staff will re-shelve library items. Indeed, we prefer that you do NOT put items BACK on the shelf yourself! (Stacking stats = hiring student workers!)

3. Using the SUBJECT index

Subject Headings are assigned by cataloguers, and are “controlled vocabulary.” (This means that you must use the exact Subject Headings - to effectively search by Subject!) For a complete listing of the Subjects used in the Western Libraries, ask to see our copy of Library of Congress Subject Headings (5 large red volumes).

n.b. Words or terms from Subject Headings may be used in KEYWORD searches. BUT a SUBJECT search is NOT the same as a KEYWORD search!

Particular types of oboe music will be easily and efficiently found using the SUBJECT search option of the Western Libraries Catalogue.

*** WARNING ***

If you use the Subject Heading “OBOE MUSIC” you will find miscellaneous solo works only. Most music will be found under the specific genre, e.g.

SONATAS (OBOE AND PIANO)

SUITEs (OBOE AND CONTINUO)

CONCERTOS (OBOE) [full scores and recordings]

CONCERTOS (OBOE) – SOLO WITH PIANO [ orchestral reductions]

CONCERTOS (OBOE WITH STRING ORCHESTRA)

Other useful Subject Headings for oboists include:

OBOE – INSTRUCTION AND STUDY
OBOE – STUDIES AND EXERCISES
OBOE – ORCHESTRA STUDIES

Once you have found a desired score or book, a quick way to find additional similar items is to click on the highlighted Subject in the item’s bibliographic record in Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue. This will retrieve a list of Subjects; click on the desired Subject again, and a list of works which have this same Subject Heading will be retrieved.

4. Ensembles using the oboe

For information on this topic, consult the handout Woodwind Ensembles.

5. Oboe music found in the Solo Music Reference Collection

Much unusual and twentieth-century music for the oboe may be found in the Solo Music Reference Collection housed in the Choral/Band/Orchestral Library.

For information on Catalogues and access to the collection see the handout Using the Solo Music Reference Collection.

The general classification for oboe music in the SMRC is

MUS 4065.

REPERTOIRE LISTS

For assistance in identifying appropriate repertoire for the oboe (alone and in combination with other instruments) the following reference sources are very useful:


In addition to lists of oboe (English horn, etc.) solos and oboe in combination with other instruments, this work cites fingering charts, method books and bibliography covering topics such as reed-making and the history of the oboe.


An extensive list of music for oboe alone and in combination with other instruments, complete in two volumes.
This carefully researched catalogue lists almost 10,000 items (10,500+ in 2nd ed.) for works employing oboe, oboe d'amore, and F-oboe alone and in chamber works. A valuable feature is the inclusion of early tutors and vocal works with obbligato oboe(s).


A useful work, not as comprehensive as the above works.


This work also includes solo works for instrumentalists.

**ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS on CD-ROM**


A recent acquisition - orchestral musicians may well wish to acquire a personal copy of this set for themselves [as traditional "excerpt books", do NOT provide complete orchestral parts]. "Complete oboe I & II and English Horn parts" – Cover of v. 1

v. 1. Beethoven, Schubert, and more
v. 2. Debussy, Mahler and more
v. 3. Brahms, Schumann and more
v. 4. Tchaikovsky and more
v. 5. Dvorak, Rimsky-Korsakov and more
v. 6. Mozart and Haydn
v. 7. Ravel, Elgar and more
v. 8. Bartók, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, and more
v. 9. Strauss, Sibelius and more
v. 10. Bach, Handel and more
v. 11 & 12. Wagner, pt.1 & pt. 2

**REED-MAKING**

Information on oboe reed-making can be found using the Subject Heading:

OBOE – REEDS

**PERIODICALS for Oboists**

The Music Library subscribes to many periodicals of interest to oboists. Included are:

- Journal of the International Double Reed Society
- Double Reed
- Instrumentalist
- International Musician
- Early Music
- Galpin Society Journal

For holdings and the call numbers of these and other periodicals consult the Western Libraries Catalogue, by title or corporate author. See the related handout Periodical Literature.

**Finding ARTICLES for, about, and BY Oboists**

There are a myriad options available to you for finding ARTICLES on any oboe-related topic:

**BIBLIOGRAPHIES** provide the “shorthand” (and are also a fast shortcut) for finding articles.

You will find bibliographies (lists of books or articles consulted by an author who wrote that book/article) in/at:

- the back of a book about oboes (or oboists).
- the end of a scholarly article about a given topic.

The New Grove Dictionary. 2nd ed. abounds with bibliographies - you will find a bibliography at the end of EVERY article in the NG-II. Check the article about OBOE!

You can also “browse” printed periodicals for
oboists (see the preceding heading for titles of oboe-interest).

ONLINE INDEXES & FULL TEXT SOURCES are a relative ‘newcomer’ to the study of music. Again, there are several options available - from the RESEARCH tab at the Western Libraries homepage www.lib.uwo.ca:

- Program Guides
  - Music
    - Music Performance
    - Instrumental Performance
  OR
- SUMMON (the default search at the Libraries homepage) at: www.lib.uwo.ca:
  - enter your search terms
    e.g. oboe embouchure

PLEASE BE AWARE that SUMMON is designed to find secondary literature, and is NOT recommended for locating printed and recorded music.

And, last but not least, are anthologies of articles directed toward teachers and students, such as those published by The Instrumentalist magazine:


HISTORY of the oboe and oboe music


When using a bibliography, please be sure to distinguish between books (titles always listed in italics) and periodical or journal articles (“titles always listed within quotation marks”) to save yourself valuable time.

Call numbers for books may be found by searching by either AUTHOR or TITLE, or by using a KEYWORD search to combine author and title words.

Call numbers for journal articles may be found by searching for the title of the journal (“**NOT** the title of the article !!) in the Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue. So, if your citation looks like:


The italicized GSJ is an abbreviation for the title of a journal. You need to figure-out the full title, in order to find it in The Western Libraries Catalogue. Once you have found the full title (Galpin Society Journal), simply do a TITLE search, note the call number - and find the volume you require. If the journal is available online, you may click on the appropriate link - scroll-down on the bibliographic record display in order to see which database offers the volume/year that you require.

When you search in The Western Libraries Catalogue by TITLE for a periodical, journal, newspaper or magazine title, you will notice that the call number is the same for ALL of the volumes – and the volume number/year will then identify the particular bound volume you require.

Occasionally, you will notice that the older volumes are in a location called STORAGE – you can request needed volumes by clicking-on this icon

[located below the Western banner - and above the “title” box] and then following the instructions given on the The Western Libraries Catalogue screen.

You will receive an email notification when the item has been delivered to the Music Library.
Information about OBOISTS

Part and parcel of the history of an instrument, is information about leading pedagogues and performers (for whom much repertoire was written and/or dedicated). While this information may be commonly found in sources such as the New Grove Dictionary, in periodicals (The Double Reed), or as chapters of books (see Geoffrey Burgess’s books), you will occasionally find an entire book devoted to an important oboist.


PERFORMING PRACTICE

Historically-informed performance is an ongoing consideration for all performers. Following are titles which may prove useful to oboists:


One can often gain a useful perspective on performing practice by consulting the tutors and methods of past eras. These historical sources provide valuable information on fingerings, and on how to perform figures, ornaments, crescendos, etc.

Sources of particular interest to oboists, held at the Western Libraries Music Library include


A 36-reel microfilm set of tutors and methods, many of which were written by the leading virtuosi of their day. While many of the sources will contain material of interest, reels 2 & 7 of Part 1, contain treatises dealing with the oboe - see reel 24 of Part 2. Each Part has its own printed index, located in the Music Reference area (call number listed above).

Part 1. Instrumental tutors from the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments, Oxford and the private library of Philip Bate (10 reels). Oboe tutors will be found on reels # 2 and # 7 of this series.

Part 2. Tutors and méthodes from the F.J. Fétis Collection at the Bibliothèque Royale Albert Ier, Brussels (26 reels). Oboe tutors will be found on reel # 24 of this series.

Recent publications (not listed in New Grove 2) regarding the history of the oboe include:


Extensive survey of the early oboe, replete with illustrations, musical examples, discussion of geographical differences (pitch, bore size, reeds, fingering, tonguing, etc.). Highly-recommended.


Continuing-on from where the preceding volume ends, with a chapter devoted to pre-history of the instrument, Burgess and Haynes discuss the further development of the oboe as a keyed instrument. Includes discography, index, bibliography and appendices (dimensions for 10 reeds, 1691-c.1767; a collation of fingering charts; the use of keys on 19th-century oboes as shown in method books, c.1815-90).


Covers a wide-range of topics, from physical considerations of oboists, reed-making, instrument care, professional behaviour and employer- expectations for orchestral musicians. Includes fingering charts and index.
Additional information regarding Performing Practice can be found in a variety of sources, both online and print:

- [www.grovemusic.com](http://www.grovemusic.com) (see the articles on “Performing Practice” and “Ornamentation”)
- ML 457 is the classification section for performance practice - see the books by Donington, Kivy and Leppard
- Search the Libraries Catalogue by SUBJECT: performance practice

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**RECORDINGS of oboe music**

Although most of the Music Library's sound recordings can be found via the [Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue](http://www.library.wlu.ca), many others cannot. Most commercially-recorded oboe music for which you know the composer and the title may be found by using the **KEYWORD** search, and including at least THREE significant words from the following list:

- composer's surname
- a unique/unusual word from the title of the work
- the plural of the genre
- 'compact' to limit your search to CDs-only
- digits/numerals (ONLY - omit any/all letters) from an opus number

[It is NO LONGER NECESSARY to include "AND" in-between each of your keywords.]

If you are looking for a recording by a particular performer, you may also choose to search by **Author**

* e.g.  

  **HOLLIGER, HEINZ**  
  or  
  **DE LANCIE, JOHN**

To locate recent recordings (after first checking on [Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue](http://www.library.wlu.ca) – by **Author** (i.e. performer)), please consult the Reference Librarian; the CD may not yet be ordered.

Western Libraries subscribes to NAXOS Music Library (online), which requires your WesternONE username + password for off-campus access.

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**Don Wright Faculty of Music RECITALS**

In addition to commercially-produced recordings, there are hundreds of Don Wright Faculty of Music (DW-FoM) Student/Faculty/Guest Artist Recitals, which were taped during the period 1965 - the present. Until 1988, or so, recitals were automatically taped for archival purposes. After that time, the process became much more selective – so that one cannot rely upon finding a tape for every DW-FoM performance. Access to this collection is provided by computer-generated indexes housed in pale blue covers. You will find these indexes on the last row of the Reference Section - nearest the Reference Librarian’s desk. Should you find a performance you wish to hear, you must:

**make note of the appropriate reference number – from the left-hand column!!**

Then leave a note for Mr. Mike Godwin in his mailbox in the Main Office (T.C. 210) stating your name and the tape reference number, which will look like (year / recital number / c = 3rd work):

81-148c

and ask that he place the tape in the Music Library. He will then leave the recording at the Music Library’s Circulation Desk – you may listen to same, upon surrender of appropriate identification.

**Please be aware that dubbing is NOT permitted in the Library:** you can make arrangements to purchase copies (i.e. copies of recital tapes ONLY) by applying at the Don Wright Faculty of Music’s Main Office (T.C. 210).

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**RELATED HANDOUTS**

**Using the Solo Music Reference Collection**

**Woodwind ensembles**

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August 2014