

Quick Tips for Finding Music in Mirlyn Classic

Mirlyn is the online catalog of the University of Michigan Libraries. It gives you access to the catalogs of the University Library, as well as the Clements Library, Bentley Historical Library, and University of Michigan-Flint Library. You'll find a link to Mirlyn Classic at the top of any page in Mirlyn. This guide provides samples of some of the search types that work well for finding musical materials. For more information, see the guide "Finding Music in Mirlyn Classic" or talk to a music librarian.

Basic Search

The Basic Search screen appears when you enter Mirlyn. The default search is a "Word(s) anywhere" search, but you may also search by title, author, subject, journal name, and call number from the Basic Search screen.

To search for a book:

Title begins with... analyzing popular music

Note: Title searching works best for books and journals. When looking for musical works it's better to use a "words anywhere" search, since it can be hard to predict how a title will appear on a score or recording.

To search for a journal:

Journal/Serial Name begins with... journal of american music

To search by call number:

Call Number begins with... cdisc 05798

"Words Anywhere" Searching

Keyword, or "words anywhere," searching is the default on both the Basic Search and Advanced Search screens. This is the most general and comprehensive search, as it looks for your keyword wherever it occurs in the catalog record – in the author, title, publisher, contents, notes, and other fields. When looking for music scores and recordings, "words anywhere" searching is particularly recommended. It is the most straightforward approach but can also be quite powerful when you choose the right keywords.

You may further focus your search using the limiting options on the bottom half of the Advanced Search page – the format search is especially useful, as it allows you to narrow your search to scores, CDs, or DVDs.

To search for a particular performer:

Word(s) anywhere mozart concertos 456 serkin

Note: To search by opus or thematic index number, use the numerals alone, minus the prefix (op., BWV, K, etc.).

To search for a particular edition:

Word(s) anywhere verdi falstaff ricordi

To search for a vocal score:

Word(s) anywhere berg wozzeck vocal

To search for a particular song:

Word(s) anywhere "i feel pretty"

Note: When looking for a song that is part of a musical, opera, or other larger entity, you may find additional results by searching for the work itself. For example, a score search on "I feel pretty" yields just one result, while a search for the musical retrieves several more:

Word(s) anywhere west side story bernstein

Subject Searching

Subject word(s) music brazil

Try a "subject words" search using Library of Congress subject headings when searching for books or music related to a general topic. When a "words anywhere" search yields too many hits, a subject search can provide more focused and relevant results. If you're not sure what subject words to use, do a keyword search first and then look at the subject headings in the record of a relevant item for guidance.

Problems or Questions?

If you have problems or questions about finding music materials in Mirlyn, stop by the Music Library circulation desk, call us at 734.764.2512, or e-mail us at music.library@umich.edu.