

Quick Tips for Finding Music in Mirlyn

Mirlyn is the online catalog of the University of Michigan Libraries. You'll find a link to Mirlyn in the upper-right corner of any library webpage. 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" or talk to a music librarian.

Important Search Tips

These two tips will improve the relevance of your search results:

1. Use quotes to search for an exact phrase: e.g., "appalachian spring"
2. Use "AND" to combine multiple search terms: e.g., chopin AND nocturnes AND cortot

You can also use + (plus) and - (minus) as operators. Type '+' before a word to make that word required, and type '-' before a word to exclude that word. The results will be the same if you use AND and NOT as operators.

Basic Search

The Basic Search screen appears when you enter Mirlyn. The default search is an "All Fields" 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:

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

To search for a journal:

To search by call number:

"All Fields" Searching

Keyword, or "All Fields," 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(s) wherever it occurs in the catalog record – in the author, title, publisher, contents, notes, and other fields. When looking for music scores and recordings, "All Fields" 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 limits on the bottom half of the Advanced Search page or the narrowing options on the left side of the results page. The format limit is especially useful, as it allows you to narrow your search to scores, CDs, or DVDs.

To search for a particular performer:

Note: To search by opus or thematic index number, use the numerals alone or enclose the prefix and numerals in quotes (e.g., “op. 97” or “BWV 531”)

To search for a particular edition:

To search for a vocal score:

To search for a particular song:

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 entire musical retrieves several more:

Subject Searching

Try a subject search using Library of Congress subject headings when you need books or music related to a general topic. When an “All Fields” 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 records of relevant items for guidance. The search below will retrieve materials related to Brazilian music:

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.