Filling in the Gaps: Interim Collection Development at the University at Buffalo Music Library

Music Library Association, New York State/Ontario Chapter Annual Meeting
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UB Music Library

- Located in music building
- Open 54 hours per week
- Single service desk, on-call reference during all open hours
- 3 full-time staff
  (2 librarians, 1 paraprofessional)
- Administrative limbo
  (imminent reorganization)
Music Department

BA - Music
B.Mus. - Performance

MA - Composition
MA - Theory
MA - Music History
MM - Performance

Ph.D. - Composition
Ph.D. - Historical Musicology and Music Theory

Advanced certificate in contemporary performance

Department of Theatre and Dance

BFA - Music Theatre
Previous model collection development

Single selector for scores and recordings

Scores: standing series; mostly ordered title-by-title

“Consider starting approval plan for 2006 . . . with Front or Otto H.”

-2013

CDs: some label blankets; mostly ordered title-by-title
May 2013

- Director (and selector) retires
- No interim appointment
- No new hire plans
LIBRARIANS
MORE
famous
people
play not
my JOB
[this space intentionally left blank]
Interim Policy

Interim

Policy
Interim policy

- Faculty projects
- Purchase requests
- Department and guest composers & performers
- Time-limited subscriptions of major reference works
- Small-scale thematic collecting to meet specific and time-sensitive needs of constituents

- More blankets/standing orders (AV)
- Establish and use approval plan (scores)
Faculty Projects

“I have $500 in library money I need to spend by June 30, 2015. Can you help?”

“I can really just give you a list and you’ll get stuff!”
Requests

- “Do we have the vocal score for *Aladdin*?”

- “I am a PhD student who would like to be able to study the following [long list of] pieces, currently not in the music library (and not easily available through interlibrary loan), on my comprehensive exams. If it is possible for the library to purchase any of these, I'd be highly grateful.”

- “I'm teaching Mozart's *Idomeneo* twice this semester, and I just realized that Richard Strauss did a decidedly "interventions" version of it for Munich in the 1930s. Do you think you could see if there's a recording, or score, or DVD or anything of it available?”

- “Could we please get hold of the Papano recording of Puccini's *Il trittico*--with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonia. On EMI. I forgot to order it for this semester, and it's absolutely fantastic and I teach it all the time.”
Non-requests left on my desk...
... go in the box
Department and guest composers & performers

- Music Department current and incoming faculty
- Department concert calendar
- June in Buffalo faculty and performer list
- Fill-in project-past faculty
Time-limited subscriptions

GIACOMO PUCCINI
Edizione critica delle opere

ORDER FORM

☐ Please enter a subscription for all future volumes, including full scores, critical commentary volumes, and vocal scores.
   Purchase order no. ___________________________

☐ Please enter a subscription for all full scores and critical commentary volumes (without vocal scores).
   Purchase order no. ___________________________

☐ Please enter a subscription for all vocal scores.
   Purchase order no. ___________________________

☐ Please inform us when new volumes are issued.

INSTITUTION

PURCHASE ORDER NO.

SHIPPING ADDRESS

__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

SIGNATURE  DATE

NAME & TITLE
Small-scale thematic collecting ... to serve constituents

Methods books
Self-instruction piano/guitar

Charles Ives festivities
Area performances
BPO

Music theater
  Vocal scores
  Original cast recordings
  More vocal scores
  Did I say vocal scores?
Recordings

Hands-on

- CD hotlist
- New musicals
- Some DVDs
- Feldman et. al.

New standing orders (full list on handout)

- ECM New Series
- NEOS Contemporary
- Ondine
- UNESCO Collection of Traditional Music
UB Libraries-Streaming AV Databases with music content

Audio

- Naxos Music Library
- Database of Recorded American Music (DRAM)

Video

- Medici.tv
- Kanopy Streaming Video

No subscription to:

- Naxos Music Library: Jazz
- Met Opera on Demand
- Alexander Street Press
  - American Song
  - Classical Music Library
  - Contemporary World Music
  - Jazz Music Library
  - Smithsonian Global Sound for Libraries
  - Classical Music in Video
  - Dance in Video
  - Opera in Video
Approval plan
(scores)
Congratulations on your new position!

Uh, what?
Not exactly.

I noticed you haven’t bought anything lately.

mm hmm

Would you like to meet at MLA to discuss an approval plan?

Sure!

February 2013
Approval plan steps

1. Check in with Acquisitions
2. Send preferences and budget
3. (Set start date)
4. Get scores
5. Adjust at any time
Starting point: composer list

- Inherited, update as of 2010
- Added new names
- T. Front suggested additional
  - Pulitzer
  - Grawemeyer
The List

- 290 composers
- 189 living composers
- Birth years 1874 to 1990
- 24 women
Additional parameters

- Full scores when possible
- No choral parts/octavos
- No large-ensemble parts
- Highly selective pre-20th century coverage
- No reprints
- Cost per volume cap not initially set
- No overlap with standing series orders
Optional checklist from Front

4. Areas of Special Interest

Feel free to include a list of publishers, subjects, composers / authors and genres that are of special importance to your collection. We have purposely avoided categorizing composers according to some arbitrary value judgment assigned to their work or to the historical musical significance of their total output. Yet, given the overwhelming number of composers who lived and created in the 20th and 21st centuries [see separate addendum], we are happy to provide assistance with selecting lists of composers that best fit your library's needs and budget.

Within the first two categories listed above, selection of coverage can be further refined according to score format or medium:

1. Operatic & Large Choral Works
   - Full Scores
   - Piano - Vocal Scores
   - Study / Miniature Scores

2. Orchestral & Large Instrumental Ensemble Works
   - Full Scores
   - Study / Miniature Scores

3. Instrumental / Vocal Ensembles (chamber works): Score and parts are generally provided for works requiring 9-11 players or less, as these are frequently published and sold as a set:
   - With Keyboard

4. Instrumental Solos [check here to include all, or select individual categories]:
   - Strings
   - Woodwinds
   - Brass
   - Without Keyboard
   - Works Including Voice

You library's music score approval plan can also be designed to include the entire output of recently published material by selected publishers. The library can thus acquire all newly issued editions by:

- Barenreiter
- Boosey & Hawkes
- Breitkopf & Härtel
- Dover
- G. Henle
- Hal Leonard
- Masters Music
- Music Sales group: including Chester, Hansen, Novello and Omnibus
- C.F. Peters
- Theodore Presser
- Schott
- Sikorski
- Universal
Also online

http://www.tfront.com/t-ApprovalPlansMU.aspx
Caveat bibliothecarius

Just because *your vendor* allows returns...

**Returns**

Even with a meticulously designed plan, it is unavoidable that the library will receive some materials found unsuitable for the collection. Returns can be made without prior notice and permission for up to 6 months after invoice date. We kindly ask that all returned items be in mint resalable condition and have a brief accompanying note stating the reason for return. This will assist our staff with future selection and, if necessary, help redefine the plan’s profile to better suit the library’s collection. During the last three decades, the percentage of returns on approval shipments has been among the lowest in the industry.

...doesn’t mean your library does.
The unusual
The unwanted
The impractical

Parts; no piano reduction?!!
2007 edition ($275)

2014: Publisher adds 2-page works list.
→ “New” arrival is $315.00
Success!
Approval plan overall

Very easy.

No complaints from me.
No complaints from students.
No complaints from music department.
No complaints from library administration.
QUESTIONS § DISCUSSION

- Those with approval plans: Vendor? Per-volume price limit?
- Policies regarding duplicating streaming titles with CDs/DVDs?
- To what extent do you want users to notice staffing loss?
- Job creep (so, is this my job now?)
- Mechanics of ordering: how as selector do you put orders in?
- Conflicts of interest—when you both order and cataloger and you want something you know you won’t want to catalog
- Gifts: LPs; Bookplates
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