How to Use the ICMSS Music Library

Background and Purpose

ICMSS (International Chamber Music Summer School) is an annual course where musicians come together to play chamber music on both a tutored and ad-hoc basis.

Several participants have their own collections of sheet music (“libraries”) and are happy for other participants to borrow from them during the course to play from. For ad-hoc (non-scheduled) sessions, you will need to check with each owner before the course to know if they will be bringing the music to the course.
The lists of their sets of music are combined centrally in one place called the ICMSS Music Library (even though each owner keeps their own library).

This enables all participants with access to the website to browse for potential pieces to request to play either in tutored sessions or the ad-hoc sessions they would like to organise themselves. The searchable list is available via the Participants page on the ICMSS website. There are also two links to the Nex library of music, which Frances and Chris Nex have kindly made available to us. One is sorted by composer and one by ensemble. These are not incorporated into the shared library discussed here.

If you would like to contribute your own library please contact info@icmss.org.uk

Searching the Library

The search box at the top left, lets you filter the list. When you type any text in this box, results are shown in the table that match the text anywhere in the list. There is no need to press the ENTER key or click any button; the search starts as soon as you type. You can change your search by deleting text or clicking the x by the search box.

If several pages of results of your search are available you can scroll through them using the next/previous buttons at the bottom of the list, but only ten rows are displayed at a time. You can see how many rows match your text by looking at the bottom right of the list “Showing 11 to 21 of x entries”.

If the whole width of the list isn’t visible (computers have different widths/resolutions) then you can scroll to the right to see more columns. The rightmost column is called Location.

If you get no rows displayed, then just wipe out your text and start again! See below for more tips.

Very little typing is required to find what you want as shown in the examples below. Explanations of the columns and abbreviations are further down this document.

By default each time you open the library list it is sorted by Composer. You can also sort by any column by clicking on the tiny arrows to the right of each column headers (not to the left of a header). Clicking again reverses the sort order. Most of the time this is not necessary, if you have limited the list to a page or two. To reset the sorting, either click on the sorting arrows to the right of the Composer heading, or refresh your browser page.

N.B. what you are searching on is a list of sets of music, so one piece might appear several times, especially if owned by several people.

How to browse the list

You can narrow the list down fairly quickly by using the search box and typing very little detail. For example:

Enter	Explanation
swp	finds pieces including strings, wind and piano
swp ob	finds pieces for strings, oboe, and piano (and other wind instruments), but also includes a piece without oboe because ***ob*** matches Gordon Jacob.
s..	finds pieces for strings alone, without wind or piano.
s.. 4	adding a 4 finds string pieces for four players. But this will include some pieces for more players with 4 elsewhere in the row - in the opus number for example
s.. " 4 "	putting quotes and spaces around the 4 will omit most of these
s.. "2vn va vc" 4	finds string quartets. The double quotes ensures that line-up, else you find a quintet with two violas by Beethoven as it is op 4.
5	entering just the number 5 will find pieces for five players, but also those that have 5 in the title such as Opus 5 (or fifty-something)
5 .w.	finds all wind quintets but not necessarily the classic line-up
5 .w. "fl ob cl bn hn"	finds all wind quintets. The double quotes are needed to find the text in that order.
bcl	finds all pieces that include bass clarinet.
sw.	finds all pieces for strings and wind without piano
hn sw.	finds pieces for horn and strings (but might have other wind too)
2fl	finds pieces including two flutes. The number is the number of players

	of that instrument. If you want to know if there is a piece for eight violas, then type **8va**

How to find a specific piece

You do not have to type much to find what you want. Start with the most unusual words in the composer's name or title of the piece. Then restrict with other pieces of information.

Enter	Explanation
bee	finds all pieces by Beethoven (no need for the capital B)
bee 4	finds all Beethoven quartets (because there will be 4 in the N number of players column)
bee 4 s..	restricts it further to pieces for strings (no wind or piano)
bee 4 s.. 59	restricts it further to Opus 59. This could be found quicker with ***bee 59***
bee s.p	finds all pieces for strings and piano by Beethoven (no wind)
bee s.p arch	finds the Archduke Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano by Beethoven. This could also be found quickly by just entering ***arch***
op 4	finds all opus 4 (or forty something), but also find pieces for 4 players, and those stored in Box 4.
"op 4"	putting quotes around it limits the search to find op 4 pieces, but also Opus forty-somethings
"op 4 "	adding a space between the 4 and the closing inverted commas does limit it to just Opus 4 pieces.
moz	finds pieces by Mozart (and some mentioning his name)
moz cl	finds pieces including clarinet by Mozart
moz cl keg	finds the Kegelstatt Trio by Mozart. Can be found quicker by entering ***keg***

General Tips

If you can't find what you want then it does not always mean it is not there! If you enter text and there are no rows displayed that match your text, then start by wiping out your text and start again.

Always use lower case as upper case letters will still be found. Have you used the same abbreviations for instruments? See the Scoring in the Explanations of Columns section below.

Sometimes too many details restricts the search too much. Start simple and add more text until you have a small list to look at.

What you are searching on is entered by different people and they might use slightly different wording (e.g. op vs Opus).

Some sets might have a title in English, others might be in the piece's original (or published) language. Eg. Quartet, Quartette, Quartett - so just enter ***quartet*** which matches all three spellings.

If searching for a specific piece, just use the text in the title or composers name that is most unusual/specific. ***keg*** for Kegelstatt Trio or ***archd*** for Archduke Trio

Explanation of Rows

Each row is a set of parts and/or score. If several sets are owned (e.g. by separate people) then there will be several rows for the same piece. This is especially useful if a piano score is being used by the pianist, and we need another copy for a tutor to use.

If a piece can be played by alternate instruments (e.g. the top part can be played on violin or on a clarinet) then again there will be separate rows with different scoring. But there may be only one set, and so the set can't be used by two groups simultaneously.

Note that the way that pieces are described might vary in spelling (e.g. Quartet might be written Quartette). It all depends on how the owner (or the publisher!) calls their music.

Explanation of Columns

Composer is the composer of the piece. By default the list is sorted by composer. Watch out for missing forenames or initials.

Title is the title of piece including Opus number where recorded.

Scoring – The number of each instrument (***2Vn*** means two violins). The instrument abbreviations used are:

Fl = Flute	Picc = Piccolo	Afl = Alto flute	Ob = Oboe	CA = Cor Anglais (English Horn)
Cl = Clarinet	BCl = Bass Clarinet	BtHn = Basset Horn	Bn = Bassoon	CBn = Contrabassoon
Hn = French Horn	Tpt = Trumpet			
Vn = Violin	Va = Viola	Vc = Violoncello	DB = Double Bass	Pf = Keyboard (piano/harpsichord/ organ)

Where players double instruments then this is in brackets e.g. ***(Ob doubles CA)***.

Notes are comments about the piece or set. Ask the owner for more details if you need it.

SWP refers to whether the piece includes strings, wind and/or piano. Where one or two of these are not involved they are replaced by a dot. So ***S.P*** represents pieces for strings and piano but no wind. ***S..*** is strings without wind or piano. For this purpose Hn and Tpt are considered wind.

N indicates the number of players in total (not including doubling instruments). Where extra (uncategorised) instruments are involved (e.g. didgeridoo) then ***+?*** is added e.g. ***4+?***

Parts and **Score** columns indicate the edition of the parts and/or score that this library owner has. For the Parts column, nothing in the column means there are no parts. ***Yes*** means that the parts are owned but the edition is not recorded. Similarly for the Score column. If the score is blank then there is no separate score (but another owner might have another score). N.B. Where there is a piano score then this is needed for the pianist and so not considered a separate score for a tutor to use.

Location column indicates who owns that set of parts and where they are stored if they use a filing system such as named shelves, folders or boxes. This helps the owners find the music if they are requested to bring it to the course. During the course week it also helps participants find a piece in the physical music library. The abbreviations are:

AP Adam Precious
JR John Richards
MW Mark Welling
RC Rosamund Chalmers
RH Ruth Harper
ST Sebastian Till
StC Stuart Cannon
SuC Sue Cooper