

Collection Development Policy

San Francisco Conservatory of Music Library

I. PURPOSE

The music collection provides the performance and information resources needed to support the programs offered by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, including collegiate, preparatory and adult extension divisions. The Conservatory offers courses of study through the master's level in performance, composition, and conducting. The performance curriculum, providing preparation for the professional performer and artist/teacher, includes bachelor's and master's degrees, artist certificates and professional studies diplomas in guitar, voice, all strings, harp, percussion, orchestral wind instruments, conducting and keyboard instruments. The Conservatory also offers courses in areas such as music fundamentals, the humanities and sciences, jazz history, and world cultures.

II. SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

A. Subject areas

The core of the score and recording collections is based in Western art music from all historical periods and includes complete editions of the works of major composers. Early music is represented by monuments (M2s), critical and performing editions. The collection is expanding in the areas of jazz, ethnic, and contemporary music. The library's book collection, while focusing on music, encompasses the arts, humanities and literature, social sciences, and sciences. The collection strongly emphasizes musicological literature pertinent to all historical periods and geographical areas of the Western art tradition, as well as music and music literature pertinent to performance areas. These areas, as well as the areas of world music, are currently developed to a strength sufficient to support collegiate and faculty performances and research. Also strongly emphasized is music of significant contemporary composers as well as literature on music theory, aesthetics, and contemporary compositional techniques, including computer music.

The following areas are collected more selectively. Here the goal is to provide materials needed for basic and advanced study on the undergraduate and occasionally the master's level: popular music of the United States; jazz; film music; and folk and art music traditions of world cultures. Performance areas collected to this level are voice, all strings, orchestral wind instruments, guitar, and percussion. Current collecting of organ music is minimal, limited largely to important editions of core works by the most significant composers. Lower in priority are music education and music therapy.

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B. Geographical coverage

All geographical areas of the Western art tradition are represented. Also represented are materials from Eastern Europe, China, Korea, and Japan.

C. Languages

Materials within the scope of the major emphases of the collection as outlined above are collected in all languages, but English and Western European languages, especially French, German, Italian, and Spanish, are emphasized; also represented are Czech, Hungarian, Japanese, Mandarin, and Korean. Materials in other European languages are collected more selectively. Likewise, there is no language restriction for the texts of vocal works (both scores and recordings) as well as for text that accompanies scores and recordings (critical commentary, liner notes, etc.), but here, too, the emphasis is on English and Western European languages.

D. Chronological periods

All historical periods of Western art music, from antiquity to the present, are substantially represented in the collection. Likewise represented are all historical periods of the cultures named above as major collection emphases.

III. FORMATS AND PUBLICATION TYPES

A. Scores

Chamber music (scores and parts) forms the basis of the collection. Composers' collected editions and monumental sets and series, usually prepared according to current standards of critical, scholarly editing, support musicological research as well as performance. Such editions, mostly in the M2 and M3 classes (monuments), are therefore a collecting priority. Performance editions extracted from composers' collected editions are selectively collected as part of the circulating collection. For performance editions in general, preference is given to those produced according to current standards of critical editing. Music facsimiles for both research (i.e., composers' holographs and sketches, reproductions of

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significant pre-1800 manuscripts, etc.) and performance are of central importance to the collection as primary-source materials.

Multiple copies of solo piano works (M22-25s), two-piano works, including M1011s (concerti) are also features of the collection. Sets of parts for orchestral music are collected and cataloged, but maintained by a separate orchestra library and librarian (Salon level). For large choral works and operas, full scores, study scores as well as piano-vocal scores are all collected, often in multiple copies. Sets of choral octavos are cataloged and collected, but maintained in a separate library; individual octavos are collected selectively for the 6th floor library. For concertos and other works for one or more solo instruments with orchestra, piano-reduction scores are collected, as are full scores. Miniature scores are collected (shelved separately) but not to the same level as full-sized scores. Easy-level instructional/children's music is also collected minimally and shelved separately.

B. Text-based materials

Publication types collected include monographs, serials, series (including monuments), and compilations (proceedings, Festschriften, etc.). Textbooks for language classes, Western Civilization and humanities classes, and to a lesser degree, music texts, are all constituents of the collection. Biographies of visual artists as well as oversize reproductions of art feature prominently. Literature and popular fiction are also important facets of the book collection. The following are generally not collected: collections of reprinted articles and subsequent editions containing only minor revisions.

C. Sound recordings

CDs make up the core of the library's recorded music. LP gifts are accepted very selectively. For each score acquired, a recording of the same musical work is generally purchased if one is available and if the work is not already represented in the recording collection. Standard works of Western art music are collected in multiple recordings chosen very selectively as significant performances and/or representations of major current or historical artists or ensembles. Folk music, jazz, musicals and operettas are all collected. Early music recordings have been a particular emphasis in recent years and form a significant part of the collection. Recordings that consist of selections from larger works, such as highlights from operas, are generally out of scope.

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D. Videorecordings

DVDs are collected; VHS gifts are accepted selectively. Areas emphasized in this format are opera performances, music masterclasses, instructional videos, symphonic performances, and music of world cultures.

E. Electronic indexes and databases

Online journals are added to print title subscriptions whenever possible (price allowing), usually through our aggregator EBSCO. Titles are accessible separately or through current database subscriptions (RILM, Music Index and Index to Printed Music). Print subscriptions are not discontinued when online version become available; rather we offer print as a stable backup and supplement to our electronic offerings. Online audio streaming is also offered, via two different services (NAXOS and DRAM).

IV. COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

The music acquisition programs of local libraries, such as the SF Public Library (Music Division) are a significant factor regarding purchases and donations. As with print matter (especially scores) access to the public library's extensive electronic databases and indexes (JSTOR, ProQuest products, and others) is the right of every Conservatory staff, faculty and student with the acquisition of a free public library card, thus substantially supplementing the Conservatory Library's holdings. Our consortial relationship with SCEL (Statewide Electronic Library Consortium) also makes subscriptions to electronic indexes and databases (such as RILM, Music Index, and Oxford Music Online) available to our patrons via 24 hour password-protected access.