Music Reference

Just the Basics

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Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Music may not be your only area/subject

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Music Reference is not an Island to itself
  - It touches ALL aspects of Music Librarianship:
    - Cataloging
      - Know how a BIB record is structured & created
      - Controlled Vocabularies:
        - LCGFT
        - LCMPT

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Music Reference is not an Island to itself
  - It touches ALL aspects of Music Librarianship:
    - Collection Development
      - Develop a Philosophy
      - Discover research areas of Faculty & Grad Students

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Music Reference is not an Island to itself
  - It touches ALL aspects of Music Librarianship:
    - Instruction
      - You WILL be doing this
      - Learn how
      - Keep up with tech
      - Watch out for "Library Jargon"

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Music Reference is not an Island to itself
  - It touches ALL aspects of Music Librarianship:
    - Supervising/Hiring/Training/Scheduling
      - Staff
      - Student Workers
      - Library and/or Campus HR
        - Training Classes?
        - Make Friends

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Music Reference is not an Island to itself
  - It touches ALL aspects of Music Librarianship:
    - Liaison
      - Speak Their Language
      - Be a Guide
      - Embedded
        - Classroom Management Systems
        - LibGuides

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Reference/User Services vs Other Areas
  - May not work with the public ... different priorities
    - Work Flow vs Customer Service
    - Exceptions
    - "Boutique Processing"
    - Digital vs Physical
  - Music vs STEM

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- LibGuides
  - Create & Use Them!
  - "Borrow"
- Web Design
  - HTML/CSS/Scripts
  - LibGuides

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- MLA-L: Listserv of the Music Library Association
  - Subscribe & Read
    - Mail Folder or Digest
    - Keep up with/Discover:
      - New Resources
      - Professional Development
      - DB Problems/Technical Issues

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Join MLA/SEMLA
  - MLStep
  - Annual Meetings
  - SEMLA-L

Advice for Music Reference Librarians

- Copyright © ℗
  - Fair Use and the 4 Factors
  - Copyright Terms (length)
  - Public Domain

Music Companion to The Framework for Information Literacy

https://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/resource/resmgr/docs/music_companion_to_the_frame.pdf

Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

The concept of authority within the field of music is complex and multi-layered, and questions of authority are central for practitioners in all areas of music.

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Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

- Different for Different...
  - Formats (Articles, Books, Scores, Recordings)
  - Disciplines (Music Ed, Music Therapy, Music Business, Audio Production, etc.)
  - Genres (Pop, Jazz, Country, Classical, etc.)
  - Practitioners (Musicologist, Teacher, Composer, Performer, Producer, etc)

Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

- Know/Be Aware/Consider this when trying to direct the user to the Best/Most Appropriate sources

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Information Creation as a Process

Musico-information comes into being through a variety of processes which are impacted by the contexts of its creation, the role of the information creators, and the intended audience.

Information Creation as a Process

- " Musico-information"
  - "Complex spectrum of information"
    - Traditional secondary literature
    - Primary sources, including...
      - Scores
      - Recordings
    - Oral & Pedagogical Traditions
      - Lessons
      - Ensembles

Information Creation as a Process

- " Musico-information"
  - "Complex spectrum of information"
    - " Embodied ways of knowing"
      - Practicing
      - Performing
      - Composing

Information Creation as a Process

- What type of information is your user trying to create?
  - Paper/Article/Thesis/Dissertation
  - Composition
  - Performance

That's Important to Know!

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Information Has Value

The value of music as an information source is established and reinforced by historical practices, cultural traditions, socioeconomic factors, and laws and regulations.

Information Has Value

- Information *ABOUT* Music
- Music *IS* Information
- Teachers are valuable as a source of information
  - Lineage

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This post is for my Shorter College friends. A few days ago I was in Budapest and I was thinking of our beloved piano professor, Madam Elizabeth von Buday. She once told me “Bebe, someday you vill go to Budapest!” It took 60 years, but here I am thinking about you studying with Bartok and Kodaly, and then teaching us with energy and passion. You made us better musicians and better people.



Information Has Value

- Information *ABOUT* Music
- Music *IS* Information
- Teachers are valuable as a source of information
  - Lineage
- Copyright

Research as Inquiry

Music research and creative practice require iterative inquiry and problem solving.

Research as Inquiry

- Pursue information from different types of sources
  - Written
  - Recorded
  - Live
- Embodied
  - Practice
  - Performing

Research as Inquiry

- The "Reference Interview"

Scholarship as Conversation

Music is an inherently participatory and collaborative field in which musicians of all kinds work within and across music's subdisciplines to learn, interpret, contextualize, and create.

Scholarship as Conversation

- Publish or Present
- Compose
- Perform
  - Audience
  - Ensemble
  - Score
- Produce/Record

Scholarship as Conversation

- Embodied ways of knowing
  - Practice
- "Musicking"

Scholarship as Conversation

- The "Reference Interview"

Searching as Strategic Exploration

Music is multifaceted and requires researchers to navigate a complex information landscape. Curiosity, reflection, and strategy are effective practices that support the process of building context for an information need or creative endeavor.

Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Identify & Explore appropriate:
  - Formats
  - Genres
- Music searching requires specialized knowledge
  - Ability to read music
  - Subject & Genre Headings
  - Uniform titles

Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Practice requires strategy
- Allow for serendipity!

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Searching as Strategic Exploration

- The "Reference Interview"

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Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Identify & Explore appropriate:
  - Formats

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Audio Formats

- "Records"
  - Variable speeds:
    33 1/3, 45, and 78 rpm
  - Terminology:
    vinyl, LPs, 78s, 45s, albums
  - In many cases, the only performance of a work by a specific performer or group is available on one of these formats.





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Audio Formats

- Tapes
  - Cassette tape
  - Reel-to-reel or open reel





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Audio Formats

- Digital
  - Digital files
    mp3, wav, wma, aif, etc.
  - YouTube
  - Compact disc
  - DAT





Spotify®

Video Formats



- DVD and Blu-ray
- Streaming
- YouTube
- VHS tape
- Laserdisc



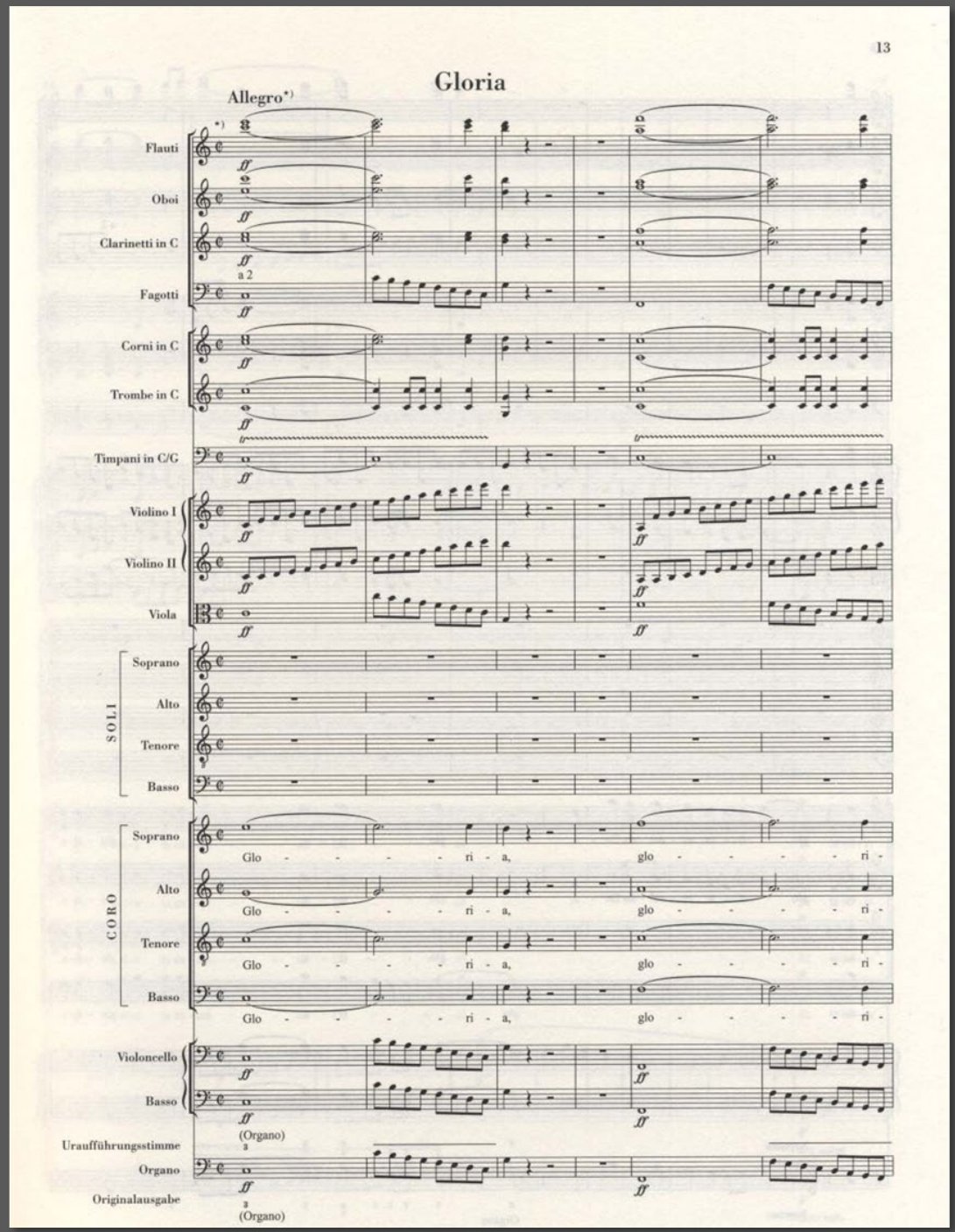




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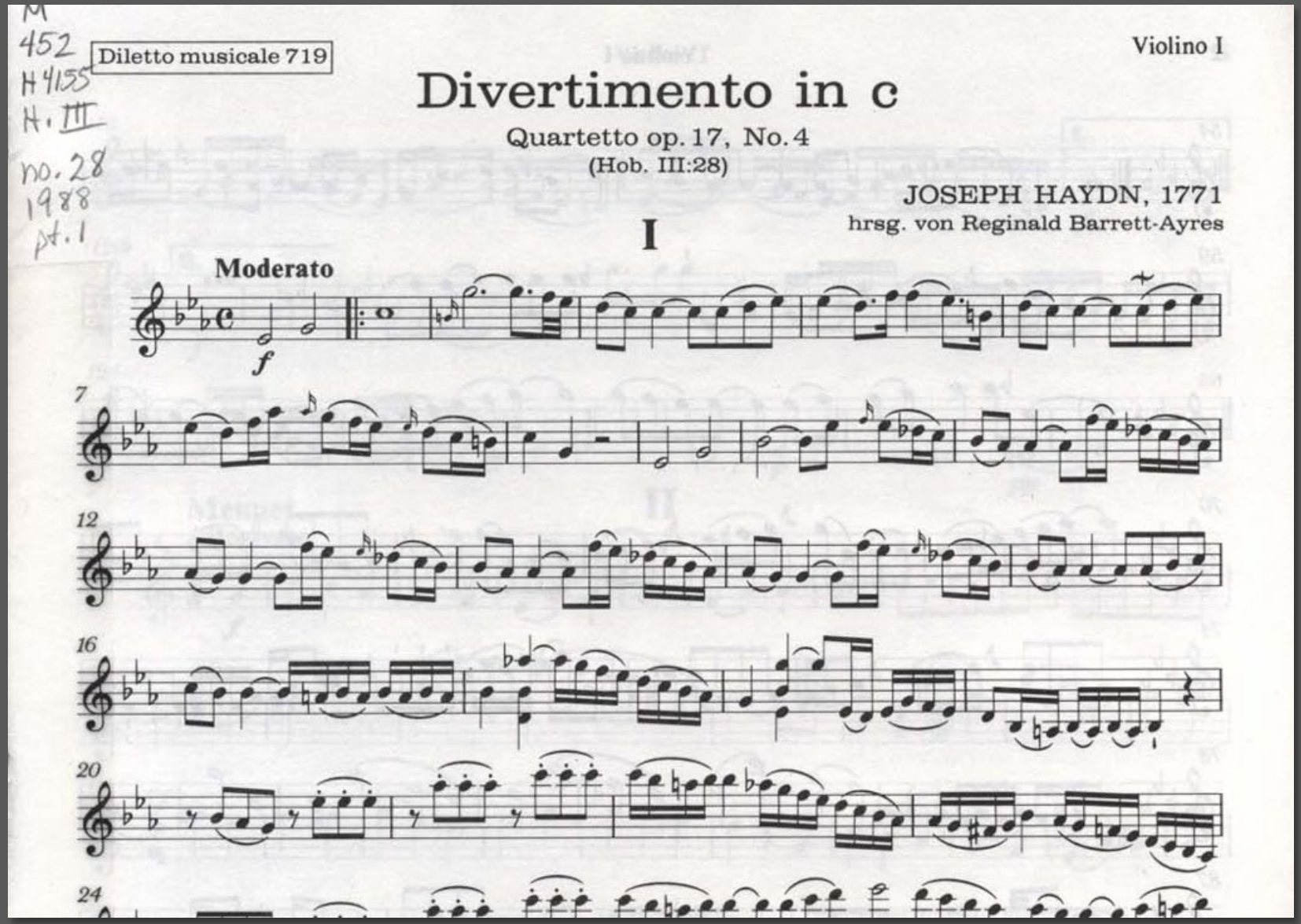
Print Formats: Scores

- Full Score

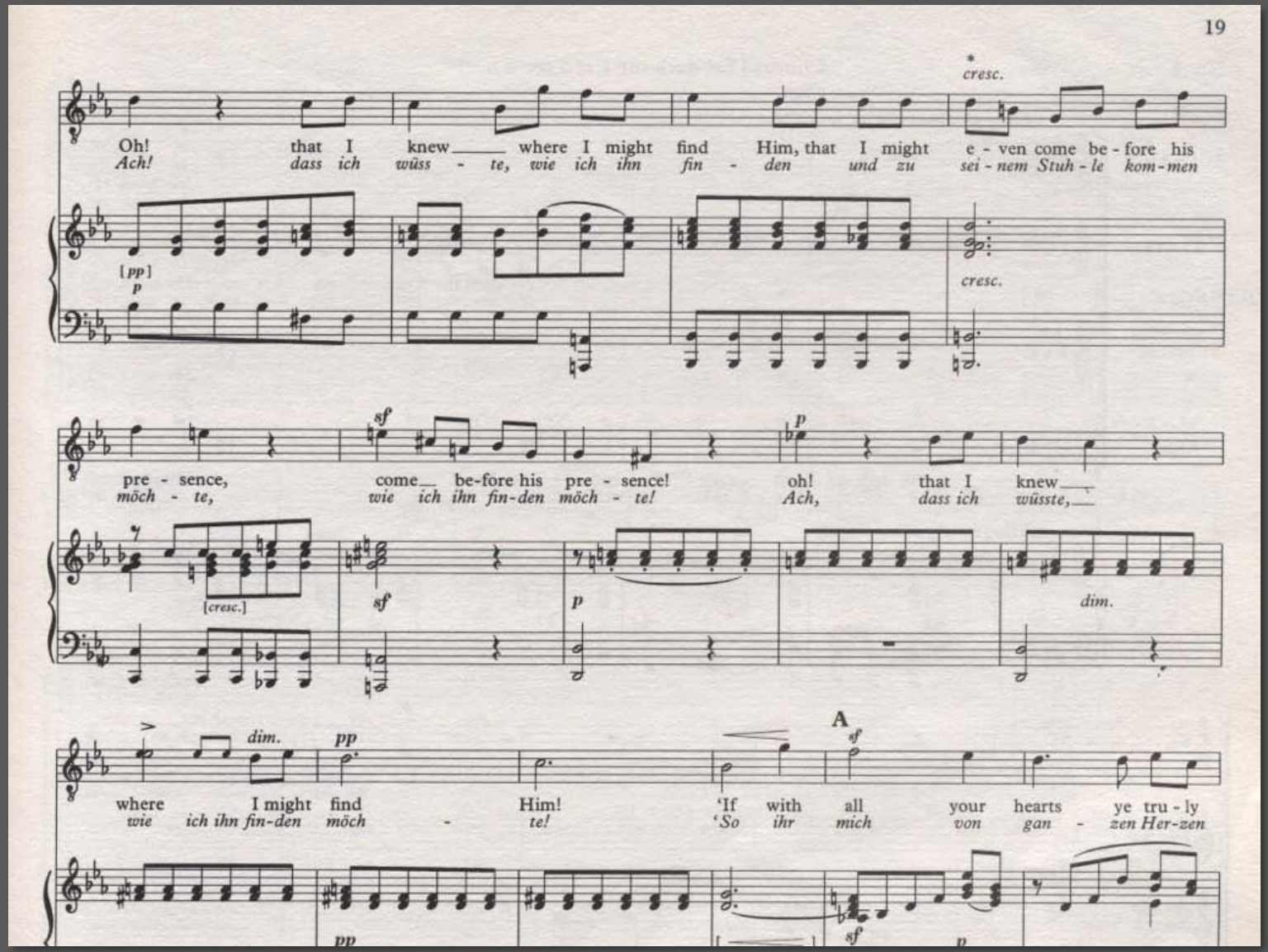


Print Formats: Scores

- Part



Print Formats: Scores

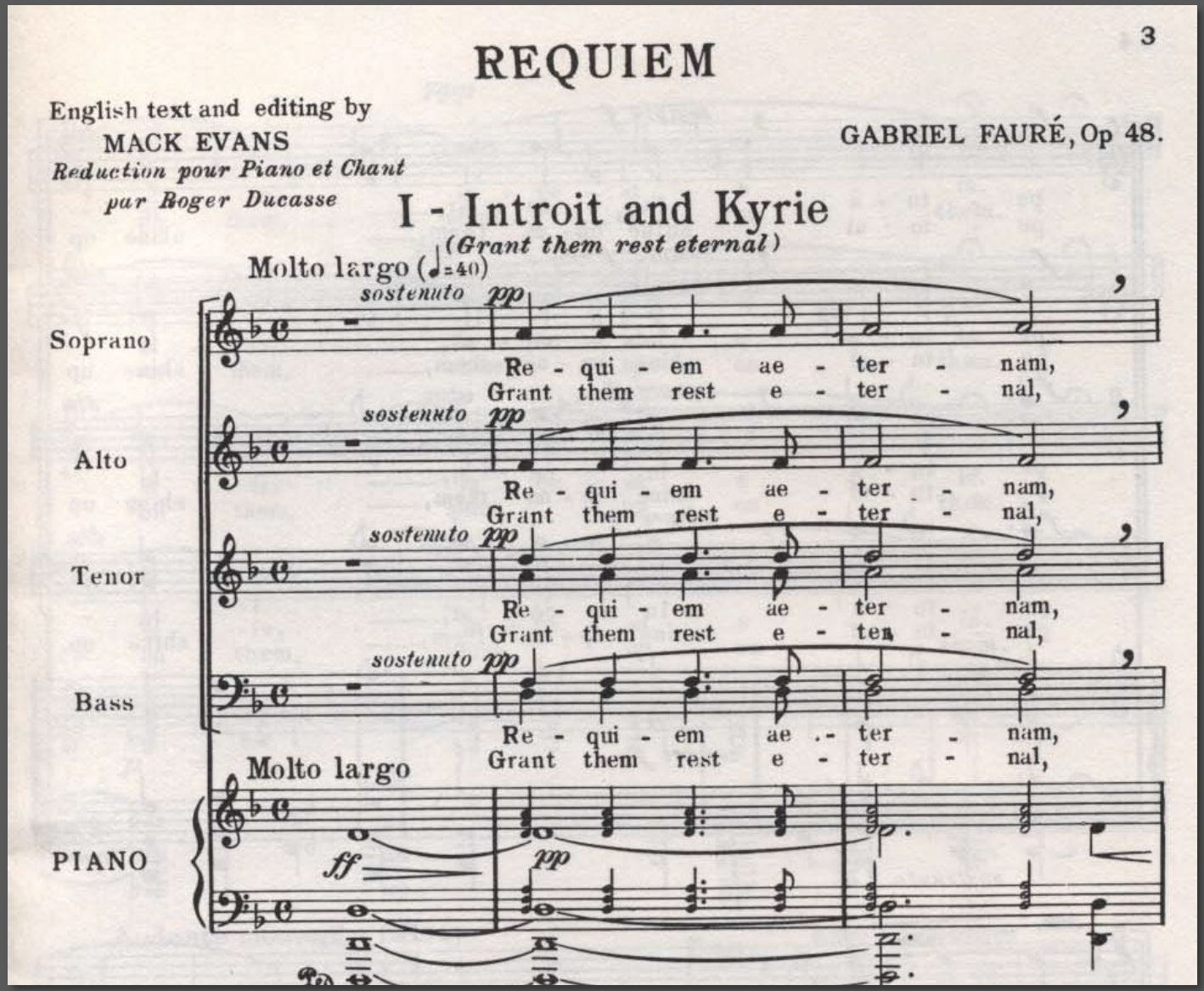


- Vocal Score

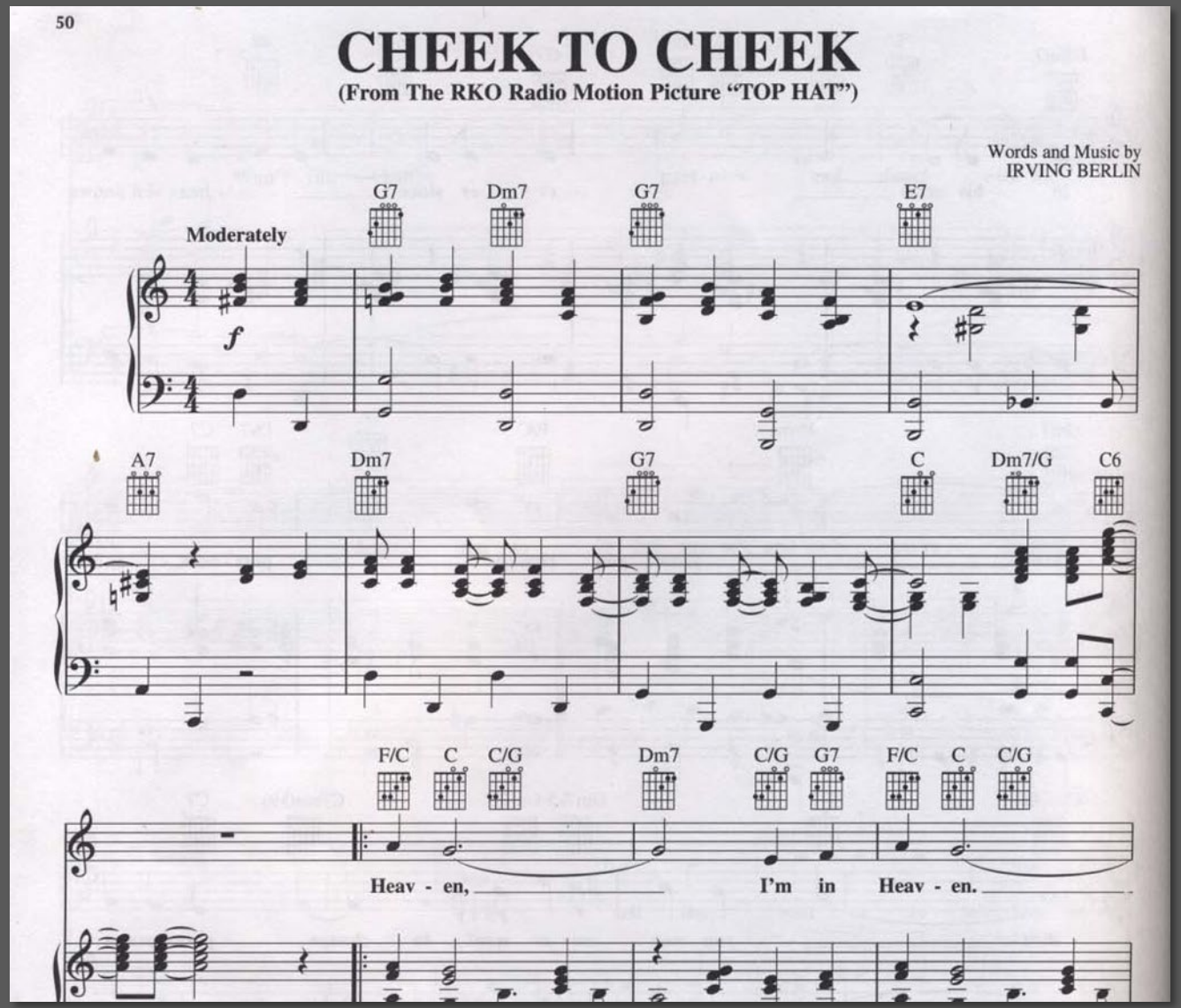
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Print Formats: Scores

- Choral Score



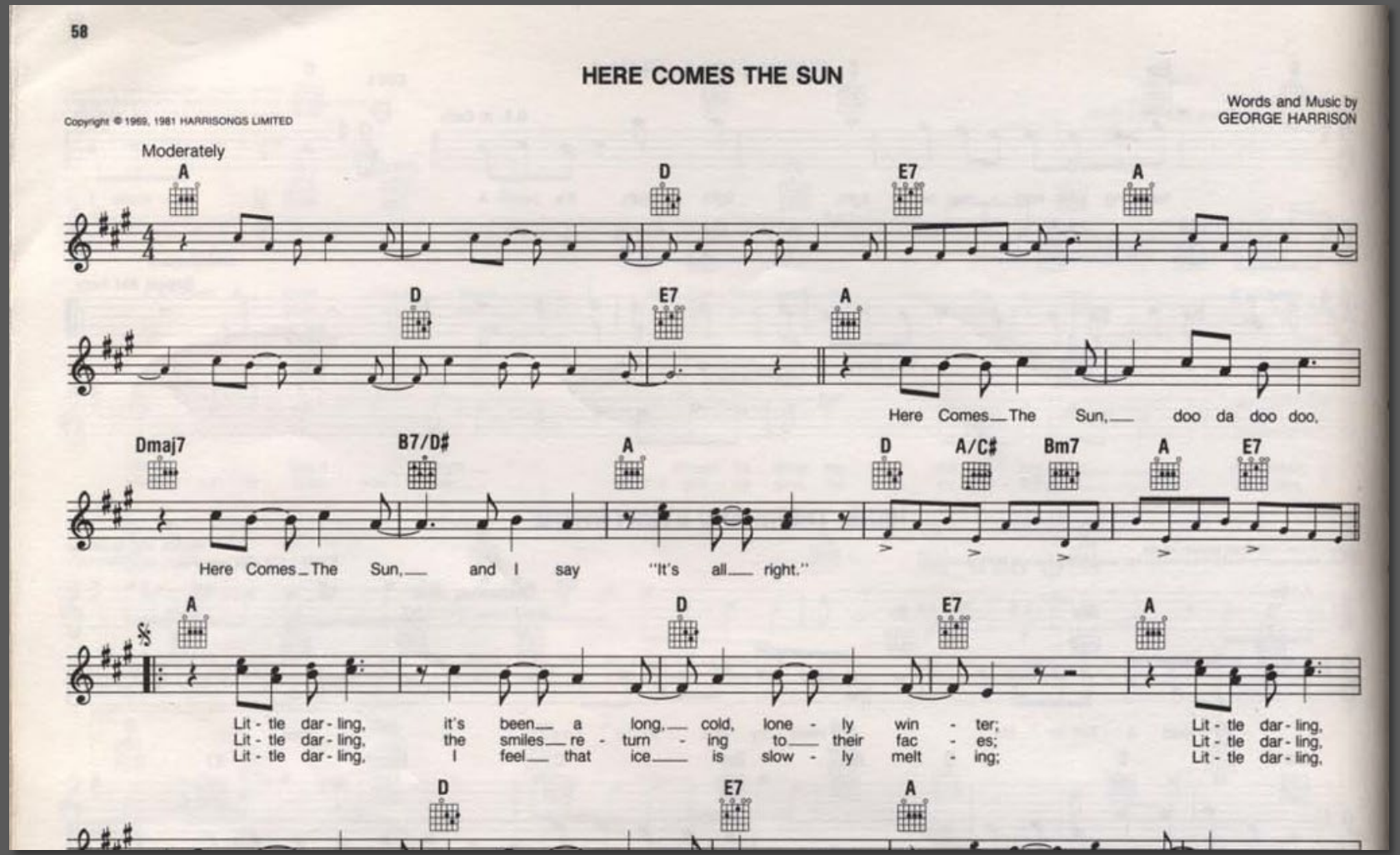
Print Formats: Scores



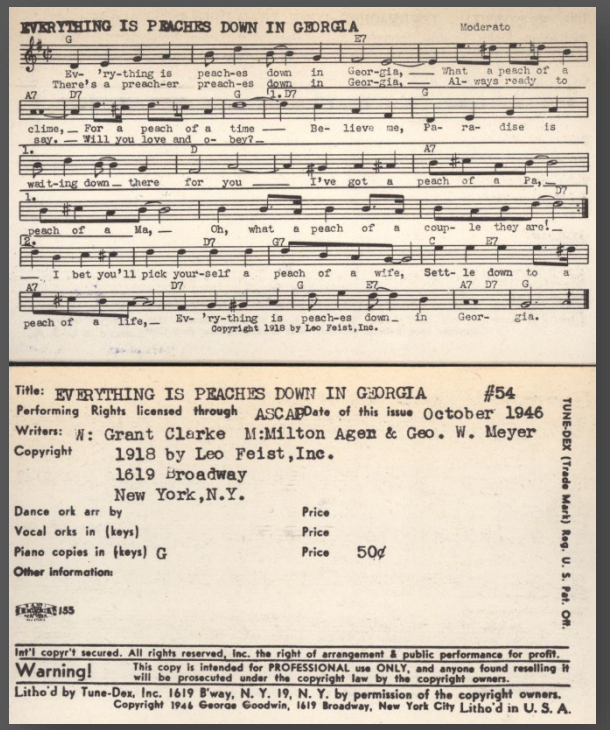
- Sheet Music

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Print Formats: Scores



- Lead Sheet/ Fake Book

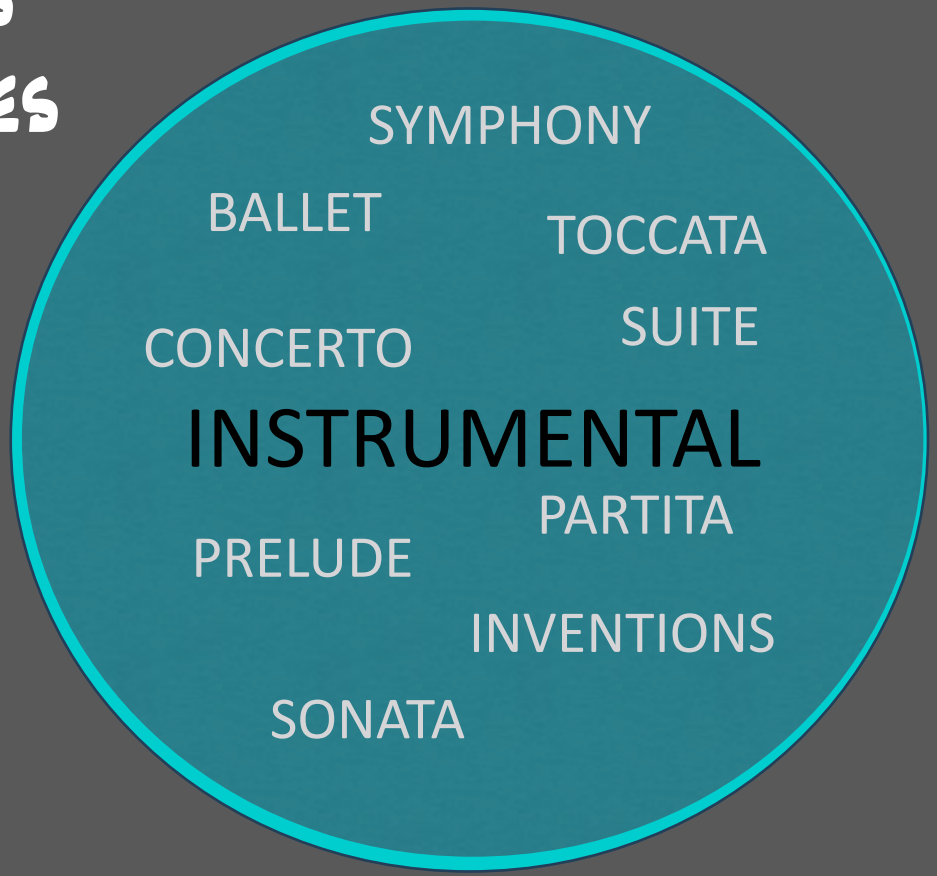


- Tune-Dex Card

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Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Identify & Explore appropriate:
  - Forms
  - Genres





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What's the REAL Name of This Piece?



- Symphony no. 6
- Pastoral Symphony
- Symphonie Nr. 6, F-dur, op. 68
- Beethoven's Sixth Symphony
- Symphony no. 6 in F major, Op. 68, Pastoral

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Common Problems

- Musical works often lack distinct titles.
- Music exists in multiple formats.
- A musical work's name may be in multiple languages.
- Sometimes musical works go by aliases.
- A smaller work may be part of a larger work.

Song Indexes

- University of Tennessee Song Index
  https://databases.lib.utk.edu/songdb/
- The Folk Song Index
  http://www.oberlin.edu/library/con/singout_intro.html
- Fake Book Indexes
  http://www.seventhstring.com
  https://library.buffalo.edu/music/collections/fake-book/
- SongHelix
  https://www.songhelix.com/

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Your Turn!

- Marriage of Figaro
- Im wunderschonen Monat Mai
- Some Enchanted Evening

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Reference Sources

- Dictionaries & Encyclopedias
  - New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians (available in print or online as part of Oxford Music Online)
  - New Harvard Dictionary of Music
  - Garland Encyclopedia of World Music (print or online)
- Thematic catalogs
- Guides to research: bibliographies of composers, genres, instruments, etc.
- Discographies: lists of recordings
- Biographies: check the index

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Reference Sources

- Directories:
  - Musical America (festivals, agents, schools of music, etc.)
  - Pollstar
- Music databases available by subscription:
  - Music Periodicals Database
  - RILM Abstracts
  - Music Index
  - JSTOR
  - Rock's Backpages

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Popular Music Reference Sources

- Encyclopedia of Popular Music: print & online (Oxford Music Online)
- AllMusic
  www.allmusic.com
- Billboard
  www.billboard.com

Some Recommended FREE Sources

- WorldCat.org
- Petrucci Music Library/IMSLP
- The Music Sack
  - An index to what has been written about people involved in music.
- Rotaro-Index
  - Popular (rock-jazz-roots, etc.) music magazine index.
- Hymnary.org

Other Music Reference Sources

- MLA-L
- Liner Notes: Don't forget streaming services like Naxos and DRAM
- Program Notes: https://libguides.auburn.edu/music/ProgramNotes
- LibGuides: https://libguides.auburn.edu/music and https://library.mtsu.edu/music/home
- "Reference Books that Google Can't Replace":

  https://hcommons.org/?get_group_doc=1003439/1570647542-RefPamphlet.docx
- Dissertations: Dissertations & Theses, Institutional repositories, Doctoral Dissertations in Musicology

The R-Projects

- RISM (Repertoire International des Sources Musicales)
  http://www.rism.info/home/
  - A directory of extant musical sources (primarily manuscripts or printed music, writings on music theory, and libretti).
- RILM (Repertoire International de Litterature Musicale) (subscription)
  - A comprehensive bibliography of writings on music serving the global music research community.
- RIDIM (Repertoire International d'Iconographie Musicale) https://ridim.org/
  - Visual culture related to music, dance, and the dramatic arts.
- RIPM (Repertoire International de la Presse Musicale) (subscription)
  - Index and bibliography of 18th, 19th, and 20th century periodical literature dealing with music

Conversation to be Continued...

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