Comprised of over 17,000 works, Brooklyn Public Library’s (BPL) music collection is one of the largest and finest collections of free, public sheet music in the country. Located on the third floor in Central Library’s Art & Music Division, the collection is a treasury for both amateur and professional musicians in Brooklyn—which befits a borough whose rich musical heritage ranges from Aaron Copland to Lena Horne to the Notorious B.I.G.
AREAS OF THE COLLECTION

The music collection is divided into separate areas to serve individual musicians, conductors and ensembles.

GENERAL SCORES
Located along the perimeter of the room, the musical score collection is a vast collection of scores and sheet music varying from classical music, popular music, instrumental music and vocal music. Typically these scores contain musical notation for various instruments and for voice of various music genres. Music instruction for instruments and voice may also be found in these scores. This collection is arranged by call number and all call numbers have an “MU” prefix.

MUSICALS AND OPERAS
This collection includes piano and vocal music for musicals, operas and movie soundtracks. This collection is arranged by call number and all call numbers have an “MU” prefix.

CHAMBER MUSIC
Contains the chamber music scores for small ensembles, including duets, trios, quartets and quintets. Chamber music works consist of the individual instrumental parts and sometimes a score. This collection is arranged by call number and all call numbers have an “MU” prefix.

STUDY SCORES
Contains scores for study by conductors and other instrumentalists with full scores for each of the component instruments. This collection includes symphonies, band music, orchestra music and other large ensembles. This collection is arranged by call number and all call numbers have an “MU” prefix.

COLLECTED WORKS
(In-library use only) This section contains the collected musical works of various composers of all musical genres. This collection is arranged by composer, followed by the volume and series number, and includes criticism and documents of the composer's works.
MONUMENTAL WORKS
(Held in storage; In-library use only)
A collection of musical works of a series of composers of various genres within each volume. These works can be requested and retrieved by the librarian working at the reference desk.

LIBRETTI
Libretti works contain the words and text to operas in a play format. It does not include written music. This collection is arranged by call number and all call numbers have an “LIB” prefix. The libretti for plays are in our Languages & Literature department on the first floor.

SPECIFIC MATERIAL LOCATIONS
BPL uses the Dewey decimal classification system, in which books about music are assigned the call numbers 780-789. Books about musical history, theory and criticism have these call numbers. Works of sheet music—also known as scores—have the prefix “MU” before the call number. Books about the piano will have a “786” call number; books of sheet music for piano will have a “MU 786” call number. Some of the more commonly requested works have the following numbers:

- **780.43, 781.68, 785.1**: Classical Music
- **780.9, 781.6402**: Music History
- **781, 781.3, 781.61**: Composition & Theory
- **781.54, 781.57**: Jazz History
- **782.1, 783**: Choral & Vocal Music
- **782.27, 783.9**: Hymns, Spirituals, Gospel
- **782.42163, 784.5**: Popular Music & Song
- **786, 786.49**: Piano
- **787.6, 787.8719**: Guitar
OTHER MUSICAL COLLECTIONS

ORCHESTRA COLLECTION
This collection offers full scores and parts to amateur and professional organizations. Special registration and fees are required for borrowing. For more information, please contact us at 718.230.2113 or at 718.230.2184 or via email at: orchestra@bklynlibrary.org. Please note that US Copyright Laws prohibit the photocopying of orchestral material.

THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LENDING LIBRARY
Launched in May 2018, the Musical Instrument Lending Library allows adults to borrow guitars, violins, electronic drums and other instruments for eight weeks at a time. For more information visit bklynlibrary.org/musicloan.

MUSIC RELATED MATERIALS
• Biographies about composers and other musicians may be found in the Art & Music Division and the History, Biography & Religion Division (2nd Floor). Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance in locating them.
• Central Library has a limited collection of music CDs in the Popular Library (2nd Floor).
• Books about the music industry and careers in music can be found in the Business & Career Center (2nd Floor).
• BPL also offers digital content relating to music through its Learning Resources webpage, including the Alexander Street collection of streaming music.
• Books on music theory and how to read music may be found in the Art & Music Division. Please check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance in locating them.

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