

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 masters level in performance, composition, and conducting. The performance curriculum, providing preparation for the professional performer and artist/teacher, includes bachelor 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 performance 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, largely to important editions of core works by the most significant composers. Higher priority are music education and music therapy.

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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 (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.