Percussion Materials in the Music Library: A Selective Guide

Browsing by Call Number (Classification number)

Browsing the shelves by the appropriate “LC” call number can be an effective way to explore our printed music collections and our books about music and musical instruments. Here are some classification numbers you will want to know about.

Printed Music

M 146  Music for solo percussion (one performer)
M 175 .X6  Xylophone, marimba, or vibraphone (unaccompanied solo)
M 285.P4  Percussion (1 performer, 2 or more instruments) and piano
M 298  Percussion duos and mixed duos (including some with percussion)
M 385  Percussion trios and mixed trios (including some with percussion)
M 485  Percussion quartets and mixed quartets (some with percussion)
M 985  Includes percussion ensembles, 9 or more players
M 1038  Solo percussion with orchestra (full score)
M 1039  Solo percussion with orchestra – piano reduction

Instruction, Study, & Teaching Materials for Percussion: MT 655 – MT 665

Instruction, Study, & Teaching Materials for Mallet Instruments:  MT 710 – MT 719.2

Books about percussion:  ML 1030 – ML 1049

Percussion dictionaries & encyclopedias:  ML 102 .P4 (Reference section!)

Current journal for percussion:  Percussive Notes: ML 1 .P4
Searching the Catalogue by Subject Heading

Another good way to explore is to search the library catalogue by subject. Here are a few examples of useful subject headings for percussion music and works about percussion. Keyword searches with “percussion” or a more specific instrument name (e.g. marimba or xylophone) may often be the best strategy.

**For solo music (one player, one or more percussion instruments):**

- Percussion music
- Marimba music
- Xylophone music

**For percussion instrument(s) with piano:**

- Percussion and piano music
- Timpani and piano music
- Xylophone with orchestra – Solo with piano
- Concertos (Percussion) – Solo with piano

**For ensembles with percussion:**

- Percussion ensembles [use this for percussion only, 2 or more players]
- Quintets (Horn, trumpets (2), trombone, percussion)

**For materials on the study & teaching of percussion:**

- Marimba – Methods
- Marimba – Studies and exercises
- Timpani – Orchestral excerpts
- Percussion instruments – Instructions and study

**For books about percussion instruments and music:**

- Percussion instruments
- Percussion instruments – Encyclopedias
- Timpani – History

**Something else worth knowing about:**

The music library has an extensive set of orchestral parts in a collection called *The Orchestra Musician’s CD-ROM Library*. Ask for this at the desk. The call number is M 1000 .O65. The timpani and percussion parts are in Pt. 8 of each volume.

Laura Snyder
Music Librarian
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