

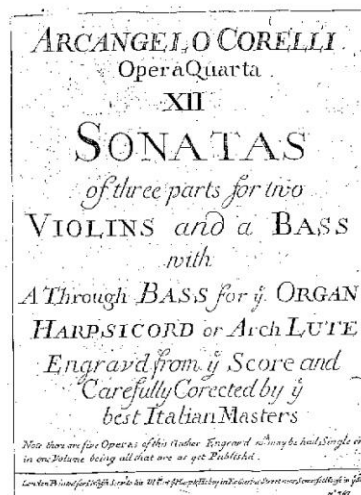
Guildhall School Library

Antiquarian collection

This leaflet aims to give students an introduction to the contents and use of the Library's Antiquarian collection of books and music.

Background

The Antiquarian collection consists of nearly 200 books and music scores dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century up to 1850. The collection is particularly strong in the areas of vocal and chamber music, with a bias towards English composers. Little is known about the origin of the collection. It has been suggested that it could have come from a country house, where the owner used it in private musical performances, however, it is just have likely to have been put together by an enthusiastic collector, who perhaps had a special interest in English and vocal music. Much of the collection has been in the School since the early twentieth century. In the 1980s, a substantial number of items were donated by the Lynex family, and, more recently, other items were donated by Anthony Besch and George Odam. A small number of Westrup items printed before 1850 which have also been placed in the Antiquarian collection.



Title page of Corelli's Op. 4, from the Antiquarian collection (accession number Z43171).

Contents

The collection contains a number of items of particular interest. These include Walsh editions of Handel oratorios and an Arnold edition of the Messiah containing extensive manuscript annotations and the Mozart accompaniments, clearly intended for a performing edition and possibly used in one of the earliest performances of that version in England. Also of interest is a set of parts of concerti grossi, including possibly unique parts for a horn trio by Sammartini, sets of Corelli's Trio Sonatas, op. 1, a large collection of songs from the musical entertainments of Charles Dibdin, vocal scores of operas by

Stephen Storace and other lesser-known composers including Venanzio Rauzzini, several French nineteenth-century cello concertos, and a large collection of nineteenth-century glees and part-songs.

Searching the collection

All the items in the Antiquarian collection appear on the library's catalogue. To see a list of the whole collection, type ANTIQUARIAN COLLECTION. Alternatively, use the truncation symbol \$ to find all the items in the collection by a particular composer: for example, type HANDEL AND ANTIQ\$ to display everything in the collection containing music by Handel.

Items in the Antiquarian collection can be recognised by the increased detail of their catalogue records: the names of authors, where known, appear in full, with dates, title pages are transcribed in full, physical size and number of pages for each item is recorded, and any interesting features such as bookplates and ownership signatures are described. In addition, all the items have a letter "Z" attached to the barcode number.

Use of the collection

The collection is available for reference use during library hours, although, as each item must be fetched individually from storage, at busy times it may be necessary to be patient. If you are making a special visit to the library to look at items in the Antiquarian Collection, it may be a good idea to telephone in advance. Items cannot be taken out of the library.

Many of the items in the collection are extremely fragile, so a number of special rules apply to their use. Staff will be able to offer further advice on the correct handling of these materials so as to avoid inflicting further damage on fragile bindings, however, some key points are listed below:

- Only **three** items may be requested at any one time
- Some items are boxed or tied with cotton tapes: please ask for help if you have any problems undoing or redoing these
- Users will be asked to use a special support cradle and a bookweight, and not to lean on the book in order to keep it open
- **No marks** should be made on any book
- Only **pencil** may be used for note-taking
- Food and drink **must not** be consumed near the working area.
- Books are easily damaged by greasy or dirty fingermarks, so please wash your hands before handling materials, and again afterwards
- If you wish to mark your place, please ask for a slip of **acid-free paper** - this won't damage the book if it is accidentally left inside the pages, unlike ordinary paper, post-it notes, etc.
- Handle the books with care – then they will be around for another generation of students to look at!

Unfortunately, due to the fragile nature of much of the collection, it is also **not** possible to photocopy any item. However, some of the items in the Antiquarian collection may be held by the British Library, who can often supply microfilm or printed copies for a fee. Some items may also already be available in facsimile through publishers such as King's Music. These may be held by the library, or can be requested as a library purchase using the blue stock request cards.