

Beethoven Bibliography Database: A Beethoven Gateway Project

The principle aims of the database are:

- to bring together bibliographical information of all significant Beethoven materials dating from the late eighteenth century to the present through the creation of a dedicated database;
- to improve access to information on Beethoven by providing in-depth subject analysis of the literature from all fields and abstracts or content notes;
- to create ease of access to bibliographic information by adding indexes of works, genres, and other desirable access points;
- to create, maintain, and disseminate a thesaurus of terms and guidelines for using the database;
- to provide information on locations of primary research materials through the thesaurus and the database itself;
- to make the database freely available worldwide on the Internet.

The database does not yet provide full text of articles or books, although links from the BBD to full text databases is planned. See the summaries of current content and development for more information.

History and Development

One of the primary objectives of the Beethoven Center, from the time it opened in 1985, was the development of a comprehensive online bibliography for Beethoven. The main source for the project was the Center's rapidly growing collection of books, early printed scores, and journal articles. Supplementing these sources was information compiled from bibliographies and catalog records from other libraries and databases. Among these was a large file of library catalog records for Beethoven books and articles compiled by the defunct Michigan Beethoven Society. Projects that reviewed the accuracy and level of description in these catalogs and bibliographies led to the development of a plan for collecting and analyzing bibliographic data. Two fundamental decisions regarding the plan of work emerged from these surveys:

1. all bibliographic and subject data would be determined by *first hand* examination of the literature;
2. a controlled vocabulary of specialized subject terms derived from the Beethoven literature would be created. To assist with the development of a Beethoven vocabulary, Dr. Elaine Svenonius, an expert on thesaurus construction at UCLA, was hired as a consultant.

In October 1990, the Beethoven Bibliography Database project officially began with a grant from the California State Library for online cataloging of the Center's collection. Database design was the next step the following year. At that time, options for producing Internet-based bibliographic databases were limited. Among the possibilities explored were using commercial

vendors such as Dialog or consortia such as the Research Libraries Group for database design and access. These options were rejected due to the expense involved and inflexibility of these databases and their creators. Instead, the Center and the university library negotiated with Innovative Interfaces, a leading developer of library catalog systems, to create a specialized reference database. The Beethoven Bibliography Database first became available in 1993 through the Telnet protocol and was then upgraded to a web interface when that became the norm for library catalogs.

From 1993 to the present, development of the database has been made possible through a series of grants and private donations, beginning with an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Much progress was made from 1996-2000 thanks to funding by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Among the major milestones during that period were the publication of the first edition *Beethoven Bibliography Database User's Guide and Thesaurus* (now available online) and the development of an indexing manual. In 2003, the university library signed a new contract with Innovative Interfaces that upgraded the online catalog to their powerful Millennium software. Under this contract, the Beethoven Center completed a significant redesign of the search interface for the database at no additional cost.

With the downturn of the national economy in 2000, the Packard Foundation had to greatly reduce grants to humanities projects. Since then, lacking major funding, the Center continued the project on a minimal level with the help of volunteers. By June 2008, the database included approximately 16,500 bibliographic records for books, articles, and dissertations about Beethoven, as well as published manuscript sources, first and early editions of Beethoven's music, and original manuscripts located in the United States. Some of these records need to be enhanced and another 3,500 references remain to be added.

In 2009, the project name changed from Beethoven Bibliography Database to Beethoven Gateway, to better reflect its function as a portal to information on Beethoven. The goal was to continue to build the database to the point where it includes approximately 20,000 fully indexed bibliographic records for all core Beethoven literature from music publications as well as more obscure research publications from music and other fields and selected manuscript sources. However, progress has been slow due to lack of funding, and the work has continued largely thanks to volunteers. Because the old software could not provide adequate access to digital images, in 2015 a separate database was created for the [Beethoven Digital Collections](#).

In 2016-2017, the Beethoven Center needed to move the bibliography to a new platform after the San Jose State University migrated its online catalog to a Unified Library Management System. At this point, the Center's catalog was merged with that of the general university library, and a separate database was created to function solely as a bibliography of literature on Beethoven. The Beethoven Bibliography Database thus became one of five online resources that make up the Beethoven Gateway, including the image database (Beethoven Digital Collections), the Beethoven Center catalog, the Beethoven Thesaurus, and the Beethoven Auction Database.

The Beethoven Center will continue to maintain all of the component databases, adding new publications as they appear, and providing access to other formats of materials. Our goal is to create a truly comprehensive bibliography that offers a gateway to the full range of intellectual

inquiry and exploration of Beethoven's creativity and its global impact on music and non-music fields.

Content of the new Beethoven Bibliography Database: Literature on Beethoven

The new Beethoven Bibliography Database only includes literature on Beethoven. To find the Beethoven Center's collection of scores and sound recordings, use the OneSearch catalog.

Both the Beethoven Bibliography Database and the Beethoven Center catalog index publications in many languages, primarily English, German, French, Italian, Dutch, and Spanish. Most (but not all) of the books and journal articles currently indexed in the Beethoven Bibliography Database are in the collection of the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies. See our guidelines for locating materials to identify copies or borrow materials through your local libraries.

The types of publications indexed by the Beethoven Bibliography Database include:

- books
- articles from scholarly music and non-music journals
- dissertations and theses
- published manuscript facsimiles
- reviews of books, scores, recordings, and concerts
- essays and other sections of books
- newspaper articles
- encyclopedia articles

Books devoted to Beethoven encompass wide range of publications, from children's books to scholarly monographs. Books on other subjects that contain discussions of Beethoven and/or his music are also included, although in generally only their Beethoven content is indexed. Database users may retrieve lists of some types of books using the keyword terms such as "biographies" or "children's literature." A full list of these terms is available in the Beethoven Thesaurus (click on Top Terms, then select "Categories").

More than half of the Beethoven Bibliography Database consists of fully-indexed citations to articles in journals and other collections of essays. These not only include articles in music journals but in the periodical literature of other fields as well, such as comparative literature, art history, European history, medicine, philosophy, and many more. The process of collecting and indexing journal articles is ongoing, and at present not all Beethoven-related articles from a particular journal title are yet included. However, indexing is complete for the following journals, with the exception of some recent issues:

- Acta musicologica (1928-)
- Archiv für Musikforschung (1936-1942)
- Beethoven Jahrbuch (1953-1981)
- Beethoven Forum (1992-2008)

- The Beethoven Newsletter/Journal (1986-)
- Early Music (1972-)
- College Music Symposium (1961-)
- Current Musicology (1965-)
- In Theory Only (1975-)
- Indiana Theory Review (1977-)
- Journal of Music Theory (1957-)
- Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy (1987-)
- Journal of Musicology (1982-)
- Journal of the American Musicological Society (1948-)
- Music Analysis (1982-)
- Music and Letters (1920-)
- Music Perception (1983-)
- The Music Review (1940-1994)
- Music Theory Spectrum (1983-)
- The Musical Quarterly (1915-1986; 1988-)
- Die Musikforschung (1948-)
- 19th-Century Music (1977-)
- Notes (Series 2) (1943-)

Frequently asked question

I found something I want to read through the BBD. Now what?

Most of the books, articles, and scores listed in the BBD are in the collection of the Ira. F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies at San José State University. So that these materials will always be available to researchers at the Center, they cannot be loaned. To obtain copies for use outside of the Beethoven Center, we suggest the following procedures:

Check online resources

Some of the articles may be available through full-text subscription databases or open-access online resources. Try a Google search on the title, or check in your library's catalog for access. If you are a SJSU patron, sign in to OneSearch and check the title for links to full text.

Local libraries and interlibrary loan

Check your local university, college, or public library catalogs. Books and scores may be available for check out. Journal articles may be available in print copies or online. Many libraries have online catalogs available on the web so that you can check their holdings from home. If they are not available, ask your local library to locate and request materials on your behalf through interlibrary loan or document delivery services. Depending on your library's policy, you might be charged for this service.

Request photocopies from the Beethoven Center

The Beethoven Center can provide photocopies of many of its materials according to fair use guideline [[link to Reproduction Services.pdf](#)]. We charge a small fee to cover reproduction and mailing costs. At present, the Center cannot supply microfilms or digital files of text

Donors

The following organizations have contributed to the development of the Beethoven Bibliography Database and the Beethoven Gateway:

Organizations

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