**Reliable Research Information**

As you are preparing for your 300-levels, it seems like a good moment to refresh you all as to the **resources** **for your music research**—papers, program notes, even bibliographies and less formal searches for information.

Here’s a short list of **resources** that can give you with **reliable information** on composers and musicians:

* Murphy Library’s [Music Subject Guide](https://libguides.uwlax.edu/music). A great guide for to how to find what you’re looking for and **how to refer to pieces in your writing**, as well as tabs on various common resources and commonly researched composers and performers.
* [Oxford Music Online](https://www-oxfordmusiconline-com.libweb.uwlax.edu/). An online academic dictionary of music and musicians, which means it has **detailed articles based on current research** on a wide number of composers and performers, as well as topics and concepts related to music, music from specific countries, etc., as well as **bibliographies** of resources for follow up you could follow up with for more information. If you want to know more about anything in music, this is a great place to start.
* [JSTOR](https://www-jstor-org.libweb.uwlax.edu/action/showAdvancedSearch) and [Academic Search Ultimate](https://web-p-ebscohost-com.libweb.uwlax.edu/ehost/search/advanced?vid=0&sid=e48adec8-2a15-40e1-9c43-2db473c29fc8%40redis) are **databases of journal articles**, which can give you a deeper understanding of the current (and past) research on a given music topic. There are some limitations with both databases, so I recommend getting started at Oxford Music Online and then dig into these for further information (as well as pursuing those bibliographies!)

Also, like any academic discipline, **Music has specific ways of communicating information**. This is to create a **consistent formatting** that makes it very quick to understand what you’re looking at. A great detailed resource for how to write about music is the D. Kern Holoman book [*Writing about Music: A style sheet.*](https://wisconsin-uwlax.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UWI_LC/vg99cl/alma991017087959502125) The UWL Music department has also put together a shorter guide for writing about music [here](https://www.uwlax.edu/globalassets/academics/departments/music/forms/stylesheet-uwl.pdf).

Did you know:

* If you’re referring to the key a piece is in its title, both the letter and “Major” or “Minor” are capitalized? Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, for example.
* That if you’re hyphenated Beethoven across two lines of text, it’s Beet-ho-ven?
* That if a composer is still living, you just put their birth year after a “b.” in parentheses after their name? Such as Omar Thomas (b. 1982).
* That titles of large works are generally in italics (with exceptions), but smaller works and parts of larger works are in quotes? For instance, “Something” from The Beatles’ *Abbey Road.*
* And as always, a “song” is a song only if it’s sung. Otherwise, it’s a “piece.”
* These and other useful tips can be found both in the department’s Style Sheet and the Kern book *Writing about Music*.

Also, don’t forget that you can always **ask a librarian at Murphy Library** for help finding good, reliable resources.

One last thing: It’s worth planning and taking the time to get good information the first time, instead of relying on internet searches or AI to give you rough inaccurate information.