Contemporary Music Centre
Library resources for university students
undergraduate | postgraduate | performers | composers | research
Contemporary Music Centre is the only major resource in the documentation, development and promotion of contemporary music across the island of Ireland. CMC meets the needs of a wide variety of interest groups: composers, performers, musicologists, teachers, students and reaches a range of audiences including music enthusiasts, other artforms, children and young people in its support to contemporary music.

As the archive for composers' works and related materials from the island of Ireland, CMC's strategic goal is to ensure that the contemporary music landscape in Ireland is documented and preserved for future generations and that access to the Centre's dynamic library of contemporary works is provided. The public library in the centre's historic premises of 19 Fishamble Street in the west end of Dublin's Temple Bar delivers access to these materials on a daily basis, including provision of scores for performance. The archive preserves digitally and physically these works for the future, playing a central and unique role in the musical heritage of the island.
19 Fishamble Street is the home of Contemporary Music Centre’s library and archive. The library contains a collection of over 10,000 works by over 220 composers from the island of Ireland. This valuable resource is the only comprehensive collection of music by Irish composers in existence. The Library’s music collection has been growing and developing since the Centre’s foundation in 1986, catering for the needs of its diverse users.

Contemporary Music Centre’s public library is available to any musicians, musicologists, composers and students interested in performing or researching contemporary music from Ireland.

Scores:
CMC’s extensive score collection is held in the first floor library. Most of the works are unpublished and copies of scores and parts are available for reference or inspection in the CMC library, or for sale via CMC’s website. Students are welcome to use the library to study these scores.

Audiovisual archive:
The audiovisual archive contains over 9,000 recordings of music by composers from Ireland, alongside talks and interviews in various formats from CDs to LPs, cassettes and quarter-inch reels. This wealth of recordings ranges from commercially-recorded releases to archival recordings and radio broadcasts. A large part of the collection consists of archival recordings from RTÉ, the result of an ongoing partnership with CMC.
CMC also actively documents new music activity by recording concerts of significant performances and premieres of new works, as well as recording and archiving related interviews and talks.

Books and journals:
The CMC library houses a collection of academic and reference book relevent to the field of contemporary music, and music in Ireland. The library also houses a collection of music journals, relevent news articles and reviews. Students are welcome to review and study this reference collection in the CMC Library.

Ephemera:
CMC has a specialist collection of concert programmes, programme notes promotional posters, photographs and ephemera dating back to performances across ireland from the 1950s to present day. These offer a unique insight into contemporary music in Ireland.

Research tools:
CMC’s catalogue contains a wealth of information regarding the commissioning, premiere details, performers and notes on each work, providing valuable contextual information for musicologists and researchers alike.

Online tools:
CMC’s website contains a rich source of catalogue information, upcoming events, news items and in-depth feature articles about all aspects of contemporary music from Ireland. Preview pages for a large proportion of scores are available to view on the website, as well as short sound clips of many works.
Music PAL:
The Library is a member of the library resource sharing programme Music PAL. The Music PAL scheme facilitates access to music information and materials available across a broad range of libraries and archives throughout the island of Ireland.
www.pathwaystolearning.ie/music-pal-2

Library visiting hours and contact details:
CMC is open Monday to Friday, 10am - 5:30pm. Students are encouraged to visit the library or contact Library Co-ordinator Susan Brodigan for repertoire or research topic suggestions and advice.