COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

MUSIC

Date: August, 2007
Collection Development Librarian: Liz Harter

I. PURPOSE/PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Music Department in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences offers the B.A. in Music as well as minors in Music and Jazz Studies. Music majors take required courses in music theory, history, literature, ethnomusicology, and performance.

There are five full-time Music faculty in the area of music history and literature (all also teach performance), and 53 part-time faculty who teach primarily in performance areas (piano, voice, etc.). The number of music majors was 19 in 2006; however, course enrollments are much larger since students from all disciplines take music courses, including classical, jazz, electronic, and/or ethnomusicology, and/or the various ensembles (orchestra, chorus, band, etc.).

II. AREA RESOURCES

A. Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)

Within the Consortium, Catholic University library holdings are particularly strong since that University offers graduate coursework to the level of Ph.D. George Mason University provides the next strongest coverage, and GWU is third.

B. Other area resources

Other area resources include the music collection at the Library of Congress Performing Arts Library and main collection, and the Martin Luther King (D.C. Public) Library. Faculty and graduate students have access and borrowing privileges at the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA) libraries. Of the CIRLA libraries, University of Maryland best supports the field of Music.

III. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Language
English-language materials form the bulk of the collection. Composers’ collected editions and monumenta are acquired in the language of publication. Sound recordings are acquired in the original languages or, where appropriate, in translation. A few foreign-language books and journals support faculty research.

B. Period of Coverage

All time periods are relevant to the study of music.

C. Dates of Publication

The emphasis is on recent publications, although scholarship from all time periods is relevant. Retrospective buying occurs upon request of the faculty.

D. Geographical

In the last three years, the curriculum has developed to include more ethnomusicology. This has become a new area of focus for the collection to complement the current strength of collecting in European and American classical music.

E. Treatment of Subject

Scholarly materials are preferred; popular materials are acquired where they support current teaching (as, for example, jazz). Textbooks are at times the best, and most relevant, monographs in this field, and are collected when appropriate.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Print materials include standard reference sources, circulating monographs (including composers’ collected editions and scores), and monographic series. Electronic format is preferred for serials, although print format will be purchased when electronic is not available. Videos and sound recordings are purchased upon faculty request contingent upon intended repeated use. Electronic databases supporting research are also acquired. Performance editions with multiple parts are acquired only with close attention to intended class or departmental use.

The Gelman Library’s collections are strongest in the area of English-language books received on approval. Additionally, there is strong faculty support for acquiring scores and sound recordings to augment the minimal support from earlier years.

V. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Equipment and software for playing sound recordings and video is a consideration in acquiring materials.
VI. DUPLICATION

In general, duplicate copies of a title are not purchased, since the operating principle is to purchase more titles rather than extra copies of individual titles. However, if demand warrants, e.g. reserve readings or musical works studied by many students simultaneously, duplicate copies are bought on a case by case basis. Different recorded performances of the same work have research value and are selectively collected. Additional copies of titles may be accepted as gifts.

VII. SELECTION METHODS

A. Selection of new materials generally occurs through 5 sources:

1. The approval plan through Blackwell’s Book Services is monitored on a regular basis to ensure that the profile meets our needs. Any changes in the curriculum, as indicated through library impact statements, are examined against possible changes in the approval profile.

2. Firm orders are initiated by the collection development librarian. Firm order requests from faculty and students are reviewed and approved by the collection development librarian.

3. Standing orders, memberships, and serial requests are initiated by the collection development librarian.

4. Gifts are accepted under the same guidelines as other acquisitions. They must fit the criteria spelled out in this collection development policy.

5. The Library participates in the Federal Depository Library Program; collection development librarians review documents available through the U.S.G.P.O. for access or inclusion in the collection.

B. Deselection

The deselection process can be initiated by Gelman staff, by faculty, or by the collection development librarian. Final decisions on deselection are made by the collection development librarian. Although music material rarely becomes outdated, items are checked for general condition, availability of newer or replacement editions, and the continuing value of the content.

VIII. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION

Music materials are found in the M section of the Library of Congress classification. Occasional interdisciplinary materials (for example art, dance, drama, and history) may also be appropriate for music.