



Music Libraries Trust

Scoping study: Film music score collections

The Music Libraries Trust is offering funding for a scoping study relating to film and television score collections held in the UK and Ireland.

The scores for music for film and television are amongst the most elusive of materials, quite often still with their composers or production companies and often untraceable. In recent years, with rising interest in both screen and screen music studies and composition, some institutions and libraries have accepted scores into their collections, though many remain uncatalogued or unlisted. There has been a small trend towards the publication of film music, but only rarely is this more substantial than a suite or an individual theme, so the process of composition for screen and its relationship to film production remain obscure.

The Music Libraries Trust recognises the difficulty of locating scores and the danger of their disappearance, so now wishes to fund a scoping study of the locations of scores in the UK & Ireland, and, in the case of collections, an indication or description of their content. The study would attempt to trace collections in libraries, archives and film and television companies, would contact a sample of the foremost composers to discover what they have retained and whether they have long-term plans for their collections, investigate the extent to which scores now exist in electronic form and how they can best be archived, and examine to what extent collections are catalogued. It is hoped that the data collected in this study would establish the need for further work and set guidelines for ways in which this could best be achieved.

The Trust is offering a fee of £1,000 for work on this study, which should last for six months and which should result in a final report on the work undertaken, the information identified, and suggestions for further work required. The report would become the property and copyright of the Music Libraries Trust. Applicants are invited to submit a short (c 500-word) statement outlining their experience and suitability for the work, together with a brief indication of their approach to the study. An interest in and understanding of the problems associated with film scores and parts will be essential. Applications, with the names of two referees should reach Pamela Thompson at the address below or by e-mail by June 15. If you would like to discuss the project informally, you are welcome to contact Pamela on 020 7591 4323. If the time proves inconvenient, we can arrange a mutually convenient alternative time.

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