

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
Central Library's Art, Music & Recreation Section
[September 2005]

You're a tenor in town singing a leading role in San Diego Opera's production of Katya Kabanova. Your next engagement is in the infrequently produced Doktor Faust for San Francisco Opera. You need a recording and cannot locate one anywhere to purchase, even online.

You've just joined the San Diego Symphony as a principal and have not previously performed some of the pieces programmed during the Summer Pops season. You need recordings and scores that show not just your part but the entire score.

You're a pianist in a jazz group with a regular supper club gig. One of your regulars has requested an old standard, "Cape Cod Bay," but your lead sheets and fake books don't include the melody and lyrics to the verse, only the refrain.

For many years musical San Diegans have relied upon the collection of musical scores and recordings in the Art, Music & Recreation Section to help in situations like these. While many users of this collection are students and amateur performers, the Section also serves a sizeable number of local and visiting professional musicians. Section staff are always happy to see returning visitors, such as internationally renowned Maestro Eduardo Muller making use of the collection when in town to conduct a series of San Diego Opera performances or local singer actors needing audition pieces. Opera Preview lectures and the Library's own Concert Series have led to numerous beneficial relationships amongst a wide range of the San Diego musical community.

The collection of scores (or sheet music) now numbers over 14,650 items. From piano-vocal scores of classic as well as last season's Broadway musicals to popular songs from the 1920s to the chart hits of 2003 the vocal music collection covers most genres and periods. A card-file Song Title Index (kept up-to-date with the Library's web catalog) assists users in tracking down particular song titles. Similar card indexes cover non-vocal piano and organ music.

In addition the Section includes scores with parts used by chamber musicians and conductor's scores and study scores (or miniature scores) of orchestral works for classical musicians and advanced music students.

From classic rock to classical guitar over 10,000 music CDs are available for loan. Using the web catalog patrons can search by artist, composer, conductor or genre. In addition, the Section maintains a reference collection of long playing records, or 'vinyl.' While not included in the web catalog, a card catalog is available in the Section. Limited reference loans are available for most LPs.

So, if your great uncle cleans out his garage and gives you his prize ukulele and you'd like to learn how to play or if you'd care to spot some of San Diego's finest musicians, stop by the Art, Music & Recreation Section!

