

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A guide to the Performing Arts collections

Scope of the Collection

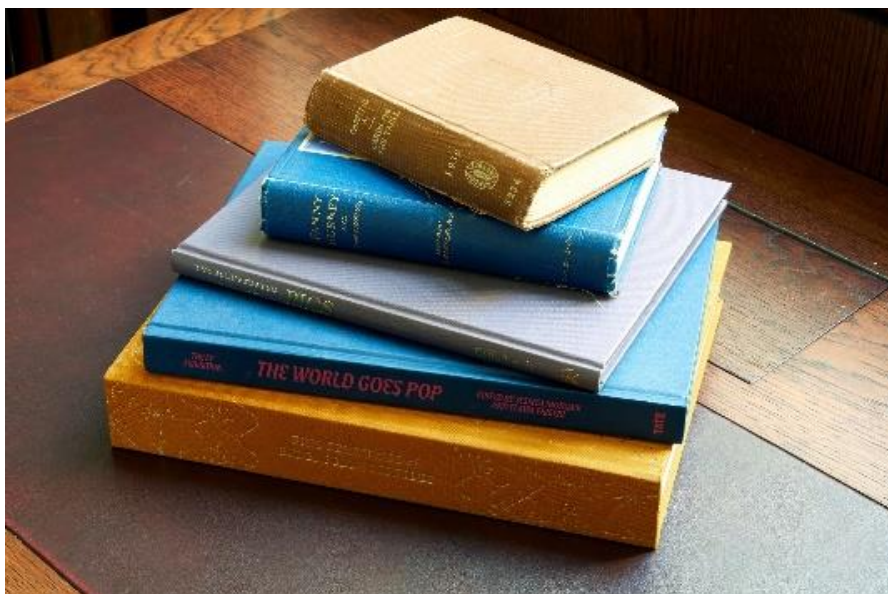
The Library holds a large number of items relating to the performing arts. This material is spread throughout the collections. Particular areas of focus include drama and music, though coverage extends to dance, opera, burlesque, performance art, and more. The geographical scope of the collection is broad, from dance in India and Australia to music in Greenland. It should be noted that, historically, the collection has emphasised the study, practice, and history of the performing arts in Europe, with other areas of the globe covered less extensively – or understood ethnographically. For instance, researchers of African music may consult items shelved under S. Ethnology &c. as well as S. Music. New acquisitions continue to be made, and we welcome suggestions for additions to the collection.

Coverage is strongest from the 18th century to the present, though older works are also held. These include Giambattista Cinzio Giraldi's *Le Tragedie* (1583), Thomas Morley's *A plaine and easie introduction to practick musicke* (1608), and Jean Georges Noverre's *Lettres sur la danse, et sur les ballets* (1760). As indicated by those examples, the collection includes works in many modern European languages, plus Russian, Latin, and others.

A selection of electronic resources complement the Library's physical performing arts collection. Relevant journals accessible online include: Asian Theatre Journal, Black Music Research Journal, Chiricú Journal, Dance Research, and Renaissance Drama.

Physical copies of many journals are also available. Holdings include the Journal of Beckett Studies and Shakespeare Quarterly.

The Library's collections of e-books (through JSTOR and Overdrive) also may be used for performing arts research, and include titles such as *Revolutionary Bodies: Chinese Dance and the Socialist Legacy* by Emily Wilcox and *Up in the Air*, Derek Jarman's collected film scripts.



Understanding shelfmarks

The Library's collection is divided into broad subject areas (e.g. History, Literature, and Topography) and then into smaller areas, arranged alphabetically. Within each section, books are generally arranged by author name, but edited titles are filed under the book title instead. Check the Catalyst (online catalogue) record for the 'shelved under' information.

In order to make the most effective use of space, the collection is also shelved by size. Check the end of shelfmarks for the notations 4to. (Quarto), Folio, and Folio Extra Large, which may indicate a different place to look for the books.



BOOK
Kendrick Lamar and the making of black meaning
Driscoll, Christopher M. editor.; Miller, Monica R., 1981- editor.; Pinn, Anthony B. editor.
2020
Shelved Under: Kendrick Lamar and the making of black meaning /
Available at [London Library Science & Misc \(S. Music, Lamar\)](#) >

Above is an example of a book record from the catalogue. Here you can see that the book is available (i.e. on the shelf) in the Science and Miscellaneous section (S.), in the subsection for Music, in another subsection for Lamar. As this book is an edited volume, it is shelved under its title.

Books may be requested and put aside ready for collection, but we would always encourage members to browse the shelves and discover books serendipitously. Items from the Library's Special Collections cannot be borrowed but may be consulted in the Library under supervised conditions, given 72 hours' notice.

The following sections of this guide describe various shelfmarks which can be used as points of access to the Library's performing arts collection.

Art

The Library's extensive collection of art books, shelved in the Art Room and on the mezzanine floor of T.S. Eliot House, naturally includes material related to the performing arts.

Books covering works in more than one medium (or, for instance, performance works) are shelved at **A. Art**, e.g. RoseLee Goldberg's *Performance now* at **A. Art, 4to.**, Claire Bishop's *Artificial hells: participatory art and the politics of spectatorship* at **A. Art**, and Ming Tiampo's *Gutai: decentering modernism*, also at **A.**

Art.

Books on individual artists will be found under the subsection for the medium concerned, then under the artist's name, e.g. Mona Hatoum at **A. Sculpture, Hatoum, 4to.**

Other relevant subsections include **A. Cinema** and **A. Aesthetics**, which include (respectively) works like *Women in the Western* and *Adorno and performance*.

Bibliography

Bibliographies related to the performing arts are shelved on the 5th floor of the Central Stack. Relevant shelfmarks include **Bibliog. Ballads &c.**, **Bibliog. Drama** (which includes titles on ballet), and **Bibliog. Music**.

Biography

Biographies and autobiographies of figures related to the performing arts can be found on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Central Stack, for instance Martha Graham's *Blood memory* at **Biog. Graham** or Peter Guralnik's *Dream boogie: the triumph of Sam Cooke* at **Biog. Cooke**.

Works containing collections of biographies of more than two persons can be found at the shelfmark **Biographical Colls.**, e.g. Diana Souhami's *No modernism without lesbians* and Richard Hutton's *Rhythm & colour: Hélène Vanel, Lois Hutton & Margaret Morris*.

The Library's extensive collection of **biographical dictionaries** (shelved at **R.R. Biographical Dicts.**) includes a number of works on the performing arts, such as *The new biographical dictionary of film*.

Literature

The Library's literature collection is spread across multiple levels of two buildings: the St. James' building and the Central Stack. Shelfmarks of note here include (but are not limited to):

- **L. Drama, Hist. of (Gen.)**, which includes works like Debra Caplan's *Yiddish empire: the Vilna troupe, Jewish theater, and the art of itinerancy* and Maria Shevtsova's *Rediscovering Stanislavsky*.
- Histories of the dramatic arts in particular languages – e.g. **L. French Drama, Hist. of**, containing the *Dictionnaire universel du théâtre en France et du théâtre français à l'étranger*.
- Subsections for individuals, for instance **L. English Lit., Shakespeare** or **L. French Lit., Molière**.

Periodicals and Societies

The Library holds many periodical titles related to the performing arts. Some of these titles are no longer subscribed to, or are defunct, but the Library retains back issues in its collection. Some titles may be online only or kept off-site. Please check the online catalogue for details of holdings.

The latest issues of periodicals are available for consultation in the Reading Room, with earlier issues bound as volumes and shelved in the basement or off-site, available for loan.

Through the online catalogue, members can view a range of electronic journals – as well as other electronic publications and databases – in the library or remotely. There is also access to JSTOR, an electronic periodicals archive that allows members to access back-runs of over 750 additional periodical titles. The Library possesses a range of materials published by institutions and learned societies. These society publications are shelved in the **Societies** section in the basement, under the original name of each issuing institute, e.g. **Societies, Plainsong & Mediaeval Music Society**.



Reference Works

The Library's reference works are held for consultation in the Reading Room on the first floor. Shelfmarks relating to the performing arts include:

R.R. Dicts., Art

R.R. Dicts., Cinema

R.R. Dicts., Dance

R.R. Dicts., Music

R.R. Biographical Dicts.

R.R. Lit. Dicts., Drama



Science and Miscellaneous

- S. Circus
- S. Conjuring
- S. Dancing
- S. Ethnology &c.
- S. Exhibitions
- S. Music
- S. Music-Halls &c.
- S. Opera

It is always worth searching the online catalogue as well as browsing the shelves, as relevant items may be classified in unexpected locations – for instance, Christopher Andrew and Julius Green’s *Stars and spies: intelligence operations and the entertainment business* at **S. Spies &c.**, James Andrew Miller’s *Powerhouse: the untold story of Hollywood’s Creative Artists Agency* at **S. Industries**, or *Entertaining children: the participation of youth in the entertainment industry* at **S. Children**.