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Preface

The following Annotated Resource List, referenced in the Theory Syllabus, 2009 edition, compiles textbooks and materials useful for reference, teaching, and examination preparation. These recommended reading and resource lists are an indispensable source for teachers and candidates who are preparing for The Royal Conservatory of Music theory examinations. Some of the resources cited below are out-of-print; however, they have been retained for their quality and continuing relevance. Teachers and students may be able to access copies of these materials online or through libraries.

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RCM Examinations
5865 McLaughlin Road, Unit 4
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L5R 1B8
Annotated Resource List

* Indicates resource materials that are suitable for candidates preparing for the ARCT in Composition and/or Theory examinations.

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias


Rudiments


A series of books to accompany Grades 1–8 of the practical studies offered by RCM Examinations. Each book contains twenty-four lessons integrating theoretical studies and ear training. All ear-training listening examples are available online.


These two colorful workbooks, suitable for the younger beginner, address material on the Preparatory Rudiments examination.


A comprehensive rudiments text that covers the requirements of Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Rudiments examinations.


Intended for the younger beginner, these books address the basic notational principles covered on the Preparatory Rudiments examination.


A practical step-by-step approach to rudiments. Revised to serve the requirements of the Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Rudiments examinations.


This five-volume series covers basic theory concepts in an approachable way for young students, using graphic notation, large print, and wide-spaced staves. Revised to serve the requirements of the Preparatory Rudiments examination.


The revised edition of this much-used textbook is a valuable resource for older children and adult students. The book has been updated to reflect current requirements of the Theory Syllabus, 2009 edition and many exercises have been added.

Harmony


Suitable for senior-level and post-secondary students, these books provide a linear approach to the study of harmony from Bach to Brahms. Workbook available.

Annotated Resource List

These books contain a large number of musical excerpts and are particularly suitable for harmonic analysis.


An introductory harmony book that provides a good continuation of the rudiments addressed in books 1–7. All ear-training listening examples are available online.


This book is a widely used text written by a respected theoretician and professor emeritus of the Eastman School of Music. Workbook available.


This compact book by the prominent German composer will enhance a student’s understanding of harmony when used in conjunction with a more comprehensive contemporary text.


This comprehensive harmony textbook is used in many post-secondary institutions. The chapter entitled “An Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music” covers the requirements of the Post-1900 component of the Analysis examination. Workbook available.


These two companion volumes cover music from Bach to Brahms and also include an introduction to the 20th century. Workbooks available.


American composer Walter Piston wrote the first three editions of this textbook. After Piston’s death in 1976, Mark DeVoto continued on by writing and revising the fourth and fifth editions. This is one of the standard textbooks and is widely used.


Progressive and well-structured, these books are widely used in preparation for the Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Harmony examinations. Revised to serve the *Theory Syllabus*, 2009 edition.


A comprehensive harmony textbook with a strong emphasis on ear training.

Annotated Resource List

Offering an introduction to the fundamentals of harmonic language, these workbooks and corresponding answer books address the requirements of the Basic and Intermediate Harmony examinations.

**Counterpoint**


This book contains exercises and musical examples that support the study of counterpoint.


A comprehensive textbook that concentrates on the music of J.S. Bach. It begins with melody writing and progresses to four-voice writing and fugal technique. It also covers variation form and cantus firmus procedure and includes an extensive anthology of Bach’s music for analysis.


A companion volume to Gauldin’s A Practical Approach to Sixteenth-Century Counterpoint, this text deals mainly with the late Baroque era, moving from melodic writing to composition for two, three, and four voices.


A highly insightful discussion of Palestrina’s style. Works well with Soderlund’s Direct Approach to Counterpoint in 16th Century Style.


An extensive overview of counterpoint, the first half of this book covers melody and two-voice writing; the second half concentrates on three-voice writing and fugal techniques.


This book provides engaging supplementary material for the study of counterpoint.


This textbook works well at the post-secondary level. It is well-structured in layout and progressive in content.


The musical examples begin with chant and progress from two-voice compositions to the five, and six-voice works of Palestrina. Contains a well-chosen selection of scores.
This practical and progressive text is supported by a companion volume of musical examples by Scott and Soderlund, listed above. Works well with Jeppesen’s The Style of Palestrina and the Dissonance.

Analysis

A widely used set of harmony textbooks with a strong emphasis on analysis, particularly in volume 2. Each book comes with a CD. Workbooks available.

This text is used in many post-secondary analysis courses. The musical examples are well chosen and the comments are thought provoking.

A post-secondary level text offering a Schenkerian-based approach to the analysis of music from the common practice period.

This book approaches Classical-era composition through an analysis of the works.

A helpful analysis of the 48 Preludes and Fugues; however, it does not cover double or triple fugues. It is a valuable resource for the bar and beat number of the theme entries.

This comprehensive text on Post-1900 music is well structured and highly regarded.

An informative, concise, and clear look at form.

An extended discussion of form. Somewhat out-of-date, but valuable nevertheless.

This is a highly insightful analysis of the 48 Preludes and Fugues.

An in-depth look at the Classical sonata by a virtuoso American pianist and musicologist. Reading Rosen’s The Classical Style first may be helpful.

Using the Schenkerian method of analysis, this widely used book extends the method to include Renaissance and Post-1900 music.

Annotated Resource List

A seminal book by the highly respected music theorist and composer.


This book lists all the major sections in each of the sonatas. Despite the author's unconventional manner of numbering the measures, this is a helpful resource.


Tovey's measure-by-measure analysis of Beethoven's thirty-two piano sonatas is an indispensable text for pianists, as well as students of theory and composition.

**Keyboard Harmony**


An extensive examination of the music from Bach to Brahms, with many scores for analysis.


This seminal work presents a comprehensive survey of the topic, indispensable to today's performer.

Bach, Johann Sebastian. *371 Chorales and 69 Chorales with Figured Bass*. [various publishers]

Bach’s chorale settings are essential as models for the study of four-part harmony and voice-leading.


A practical collection designed to accommodate the needs of students with differing levels of keyboard ability. This book has a substantial body of graded keyboard exercises and a short keyboard anthology.


This book contains a thorough study of harmony and styles of piano playing through the use of music literature in the common practice period, as well as folk and popular songs.


This is one of a series of useful texts by Melcher and Warch (also available are *Music for Score Reading*, *Music for Study*, and *Music for Advanced Study*). This clear, graduated, and easy-to-follow keyboard harmony text teaches different accompaniment styles and provides excellent examples. It may be used by both piano majors and non-piano majors.

*Music for Score Reading* is not a keyboard-harmony textbook but rather a textbook for playing orchestral music at the keyboard. It provides a step-by-step approach to the reading of various clefs and orchestral transpositions.


Overall, this is a useful resource for figured bass realization, although it is somewhat uneven in its presentation.


This introductory score-reading textbook uses a mixture of treble, alto, tenor, and bass clefs, with a concentration on diatonic harmony and counterpoint.

### History

#### General Reference


This text is appropriate for senior-level students. It focuses on the musical compositions and contains many fine illustrations. Accompanying scores and CDs available.


Titles in this series include: *Music in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Music in the Baroque, Early American Music, 20th-Century American Composers,* and *Chamber Music from Haydn to Bartók*. Used in conjunction with a more general history text, these books will enrich the student's study of music history.


This is a standard university textbook, comprehensive and factual. Accompanying scores and CDs available.


This book is a concise version of the Grout textbook above, emphasizing the core repertoire within a social and historical context.


Lang's monumental history of music has stood for over a half-century as the definitive work of its kind. Virgil Thomson states, “All in all, *Music in Western Civilization* is about the most fascinating general book on music I have ever read. I only wish there were more of it. 1100 pages is not a proper length for a book like that.”


These books are well-structured and thoughtful resources, designed to engage students in their music history studies and prepare for the RCM History 1, 2, and 3 examinations.

This text is widely used in music appreciation courses and includes many of the compositions and composers required for the RCM History 1, 2, and 3 examinations.


This concise book is an easy-to-understand, yet thorough and engaging exploration of musical periods and the styles of composers.


This text is a highly entertaining book, containing much biographical information, written by a former chief music critic of The New York Times.


A comprehensive text that integrates historical periods, cultures, and artistic movements. Two-volume anthology and CDs available.


Sweepingly ambitious, this authoritative work features a very fine section on Post-1900 music.

**Middle Ages**


This text provides an outline of musical expression from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. The first part of the book deals with music in the ancient world and is followed by a significant section that divides early polyphonic music by country. The section on music in the Renaissance is very well written.


A survey of Medieval music from the earliest plainchant to polyphony at the beginning of the 15th century. Anthology available.

Reese, who died in 1977, was mainly known for his work on Medieval and Renaissance music. This book has remained a standard reference text since its original publication in 1940.


This text provides an historical survey of music in Medieval Europe, from the end of Antiquity to the beginning of the 15th century.

### Renaissance


A comprehensive view of 15th- and 16th-century music in Europe. Anthology available.


An overview of music in the 15th and 16th centuries with an emphasis on the contributions of the greatest composers.


This entertaining book tackles such topics as appreciating the difference between good and bad pieces of Medieval polyphony and what it was like to be a composer in the Middle Ages.


Reese, an American musicologist and teacher was mainly known for his work on Medieval and Renaissance music. This book has remained a standard reference text since its publication.

### Baroque


This Handel scholar, performer, and conductor chronicles the interplay between Handel’s life and music.


A guide to Handel’s *Messiah*. As well as tracing the history of the work, this book addresses musical and technical issues.


A comprehensive history of music in the Baroque era. Anthology available.


Claude V. Palisca, better known as the co-author of *The History of Western Music* with Donald Grout, presents here a survey of the principal genres and composers of the Baroque era.

Anthony Burgess’s description of this book says it all, “The plenitude of Baroque composers is bewildering . . . . This excellent book is your Baedeker.”


This book, written by an outstanding Bach scholar, is a comprehensive and engaging biography of J.S. Bach.

Classical


This unusual text is an analysis, composition, and history book rolled into one.


A chronological approach to the classical style from the birth of Haydn to the death of Beethoven. Anthology available.


Written by a distinguished musicologist who researched this material for over thirty years, this lavishly illustrated and highly detailed book covers the years 1740 to 1780. Two other volumes in this series are available: *Music in European Capitals: The Galant Style*, and *Mozart, Haydn and Early Beethoven: 1781–1802*.


A concise, yet comprehensive survey of the period.


This is one of the best-known texts on the Classical period. Rosen analyzes many works in this highly regarded book.


These comprehensive and insightful biographies of Mozart and Beethoven, by one of the leading musicologists of our time, are highly regarded.

Romantic


This is a succinct and accessible introduction to the basic literature of the period.
This book explores the personal history of the composer and the social context surrounding his music.

A fine review of Wagner’s life, influence, and works from a political, philosophical, and social perspective.

A survey of the development of Romantic music by a foremost authority on the subject. Anthology available.

A much-admired book in which Rosen tackles the Romantic period with the same enthusiasm he applied to *The Classical Style*.

A detailed analysis of the style and structure of Chopin’s music.

**Post-1900**

A comprehensive look at 20th-century musical idioms within their larger political, social, economic, and cultural contexts.

An in-depth look at pointillism, post-Webernism, integral serialism, free dodecaphony, aleatoric and indeterminate music, graphic notation, *musique concrète* and electronic music. First published in 1975, it remains a useful resource when used in conjunction with a more recent text.

A comprehensive exploration of the history, philosophy, composers, and works of the avant-garde since the late 1940s.

*Down Beat* magazine called it, “A work of immense value not only to educators and players, but also to non-musicians and jazz fans of all persuasions.” Three-CD set (*Jazz Classics*), CD-ROM, and DVD available.


This book discusses prominent and lesser-known 20th-century composers by country. Besides a fine introduction, it has an interesting section on Canadian music.

This concise, yet comprehensive exploration of modern music (to 1998) deals primarily with the music itself and musical ideas.


This book is a concise and accessible survey of the most significant modern composers and their techniques.

**Score Anthologies**

**Bach, Johann Sebastian.** *371 Chorales and 69 Chorales with Figured Bass*. [various publishers]

Bach’s chorale settings are essential as models for the study of four-part harmony and voice-leading.


A thoughtful selection of works with interesting comments. CDs available.


This text is used in many post-secondary analysis courses. The musical examples are well chosen and the comments are thought provoking.


These volumes are used by many post-secondary music appreciation courses and complement the material in the accompanying textbook. CDs available.


This text is a collection of scores, complete compositions, and meaningful excerpts from major works of 17th- to 20th-century composers.


These highly regarded volumes are used in many post-secondary courses and complement the material covered in the corresponding textbook. CDs available.

**20th-Century Composition**


A collection of writings on music from the articulate and controversial composer that are often highly subjective.


This text, by the highly regarded British serialist, covers all the most important aspects of serial composition.
These volumes are essential reading from a musician who composed for and played every instrument in the orchestra.

This comprehensive text on Post-1900 music is well structured and highly regarded.

**Messiaen, Olivier.** *The Technique of My Musical Language.* Tustin, CA: American Biography. (Reprint of 1954 ed.)
In this book, originally published in two volumes, Messiaen discusses his compositional process and provides musical examples that illustrate his points.

This book by the respected American composer and Juilliard professor covers composition in the first half of the 20th century.

The respected American serial composer presents twelve-tone compositional methods in this clearly written book.

**Instrumentation and Orchestration**

This highly regarded textbook is used in many post-secondary institutions. Workbook and CDs available.

Berlioz wrote this book on orchestration in 1844 and Richard Strauss revised and enlarged it in the early 1900s. A valuable resource for every musician, composer, or music lover.

An excellent book covering percussion instruments and techniques both past and present.

This factual and comprehensive text is not an orchestration book, but rather a resource for anyone interested in the performance of orchestral music by a renowned British conductor.

This text, first published in 1914, remains a very informative resource. This book is a must for any orchestrator.

This highly regarded textbook contains interesting chapters that other books do not include, such as “Problems in Transcribing Piano Music” and “Scoring for High School Orchestra.”

Annotated Resource List

This comprehensive orchestration text from a prominent composer includes clear descriptions of each instrument and each family of instruments.


In 1974, Kurt Stone participated in the Ghent International Conference on New Musical Notation (a conference attended by over eighty active participants including composers, musicians, musicologists, and publishers from seventeen countries). This notable notation textbook was written shortly afterwards.

**Electronic and Computer Music**


This text provides a comprehensive overview of the history of electronic music.


This text functions both as a reference work and as a teaching text, moving from basic principles to specific examples.


A clear, practical overview of program languages, real-time synthesizers, digital filtering, and artificial intelligence.


Now in its third edition, this text covers electro-acoustic music from its inception to more recent digital systems.


This reference text features a core bibliography of more than 250 books.

**Online Resources**

Canadian Music Centre  www.musiccentre.ca

Encyclopedia of Music in Canada  www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com

Harvard College Library  www.hcl.harvard.edu

Library and Archives Canada, Music and Performing Arts  www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

Library of Congress  www.loc.gov

Naxos Music Library  www.naxosmusiclibrary.com

Oxford Music Online:  www.oxfordmusiconline.com
  – Grove Music Online
  – Encyclopedia of Popular Music
  – The Oxford Companion to Music
  – The Oxford Dictionary of Music
  – The New Grove publications

Smithsonian Institution  www.si.edu
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RCM Examinations, Official Examination Papers are an invaluable resource for ensuring thorough preparation for theory examinations. Each book contains a combination of official and practice examinations that may be used to test knowledge and simulate the examination experience. Three editions of each of the titles below provide a rich source of review material and are available while quantities last.

Basic Rudiments
Intermediate Rudiments
Advanced Rudiments
Introductory Harmony
Basic Harmony
History 1: An Overview
Intermediate Harmony

History 2: Middle Ages to Classical
Counterpoint
Advanced Harmony
History 3: 19th Century to Present
Analysis
Piano Pedagogy Written
(Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced)

One edition of the following papers is also currently available:

Basic Keyboard Harmony
Intermediate Keyboard Harmony
Advanced Keyboard Harmony

For more information or to find a retailer near you, visit www.frederickharrismusic.com.

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USA: www.nationalmusiccertificate.org
Since its beginnings in 1886, The Royal Conservatory of Music has become one of the world's largest institutions for music education, committed to developing human potential through leadership in music and arts education.

The diverse educational systems of The Royal Conservatory of Music provide a means for all people to experience creative activity and to receive the many benefits that flow from participation in the arts.

In addition to helping millions of people to enrich their lives through the arts, The Royal Conservatory has also trained many international artists, including pianist Glenn Gould; soprano Lois Marshall; members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet; violinist Martin Beaver, leader of the Tokyo String Quartet; soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian; and jazz pianist Oscar Peterson.

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