Researching your song in the NSCC Library
Prepared by Elinor Appel, NSCC Librarian: eappel@sccd.ctc.edu

Your name: ______________________________________________________

The **title of the song** you are researching: ____________________________

First questions to answer – these are *access points* to your research information

- Composer’s name: ____________________________
  (for anonymous songs, *anon.*)
- Lyricist’s name: ______________________________
  (for anonymous songs, write *anon.*)
- Name of larger work: __________________________________
  (if not part of a larger work, write *n/a*)
- Type of song: __________________________________________
  (for instance, ballad, Lieder, musical, hymn, popular, spiritual, etc.)

**Starting out:** go to Wikipedia to begin your research. Look at the references and links at the bottom of the entry. Take down useful general information and any important key terms for your research.

**Places to look in the library**

Print resources – these provide authoritative information

- *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2nd edition [Ref ML 100 .N48 2001] – use the index in the back of volume 29 to look up your song by title, composer, or lyricist to find the article you need. The older edition is upstairs. These older volumes are in the circulating collection and can be checked out.

Use the catalog to find music and more information on your topic.

For a copy of the larger work, start with a *Title* search. For information about your song, begin with a *Keyword Relevance* search using broad terms, for instance: *musicals, Irving Berlin, spirituals*, etc. If you want, you can limit your search to books at NSCC. You can also request books from Central and South.

**Basic Search**

Library Catalog: Seattle Community Colleges

![Basic Search Interface](image-url)
Recordings

To find a recording of the music in the library, you will need to change to an **Advanced Search**:

**Advanced Search**

Library Catalog: Seattle Community Colleges

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search:</th>
<th>my funny valentine</th>
<th>all of these within Keyword Anywhere</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
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<td>Location:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Format:</td>
<td>Sound Recording</td>
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**Other online resources** (see www.delicious.com/eappel/MUSC119 or use Google)

- allmusic.com – use this source for biographical information on your composer
- “Musicians & Composers,” Internet Public Library (ipl.org) – a web guide to biographical information

**Final questions to answer (as appropriate)**

Birth/death dates of composer/lyricist?

Active career dates of composer/lyricist?

When was the song written?

Where in the larger work does the song appear? What is happening in the story or the work?

**Sources used** (book titles, page numbers, web pages, etc.)