



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.
- *New Grove Dictionary of American Music* [Ref ML 101 .U6 N48 1996]
- *Guinness Encyclopedia of Popular Music* [ML 102. P66 G84 1995]

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 Advanced Subject Author Course Reserve

Search: spirituals within Keyword Relevance

Limit To: North Campus Library

Records per page: 30 records per page

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

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface for the Seattle Community Colleges Library Catalog. It features a navigation bar with tabs for 'Basic', 'Advanced', 'Subject', 'Author', and 'Course Reserve'. The 'Advanced' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there are three search input fields. The first field contains the text 'my funny valentine'. To the right of each search field are dropdown menus for 'all of these', 'within', and 'Keyword Anywhere'. Below the search fields, there are 'AND' dropdown menus and a 'Year' section with a radio button for 'From' and two empty input fields for 'From' and 'To'. There is also a 'Location' dropdown menu set to 'All Locations' and a 'Format' dropdown menu set to 'Sound Recording'.

Other online resources (see www.delicious.com/eappel/MUSC119 or use Google)

- allmusic.com – use this source for biographical information on your composer
- Broadway: The American Musical – companion website to the PBS series and book [ML 1711.8. N3 M37 2004]
- “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.)