

Orchestral sheet music collection for loan at West Vancouver Memorial Library

By Lynn Brockington.

Community, school and professional orchestras have a new source for hard-to-find, often-expensive orchestral music. The West Vancouver Memorial Library, in partnership with Lions Gate Sinfonia, has assumed the stewardship of an orchestral sheet music collection previously stored in the Toronto music library of the CBC.

The collection is comprised of roughly 1,300 works, each consisting of one or more full sets of orchestral parts. Some works also include piano or conductor's scores. Many pieces in the collection are original compositions and unique arrangements from the golden age of radio, when orchestral music of all styles featured prominently in broadcasts of both live and recorded programs. The remaining works largely consist of standard orchestral repertoire, such as concertos, overtures, symphonies and suites. With the assistance of volunteers from local orchestras and students from SLAIS and the Library and Information Technology program at Langara, the collection was sorted, catalogued and added to the Library's online catalogue.

This collection will be welcomed in particular by smaller orchestras, community organizations and school ensembles which cannot afford to maintain their own libraries of orchestral music. Music in this collection is printed on heavy paper stock in a large format preferred by musicians. More information is available at www.westvanlibrary.ca/orchestra.

Orchestras from throughout BC and across Canada may register with the library to borrow from the collection.



Librarian Lynn Brockington displays some of the musical scores available in the West Vancouver Memorial Library Orchestra Collection intended for use by professional, community and student orchestras in Canada. Photo courtesy of the North Shore News, Cindy Goodman.

Lynn Brockington is a Librarian at West Vancouver Memorial Library, British Columbia.