Selected Resources for Identifying Recordings, Finding Reviews, and Acquiring Recordings

Identifying Recordings

**Schwann Artist**
Music Ref. ML156 .S35
*Schwann Artist* is an annually published index of classical recordings by performer (under the subject headings: instrumentalist, vocalist, ensemble, and miscellaneous). Schwann Artist also includes an index of conductors, listing the ensemble which they conduct. Main entries include artist/group, composers and pieces, other artists on recording, recording date, label and catalog number, and SPARS code (three-letter code [A=Analog, D=Digital] which explains the recording, editing, and mastering processes used).

**Schwann Opus**
Listening/Viewing Ref. ML156.2 .O68
Schwann Opus is published quarterly and lists currently available classical recordings on CD and cassette. Entries are indexed by composer and then alphabetically by piece (for items included in main entries, see *Schwann Artist*).

**Diapason: Catalogue générale**
Listening/Viewing Ref. ML156.2 .D62
*Diapason* is the French equivalent of *Schwann Opus* and is published annually. While this source does not include reviews, the entries do indicate where reviews appear in the companion monthly magazine *Diapason: le magazine du disque et de la musique vivante*. Entries do include symbols that designate if a recording has been identified as important, exceptional, or of historical importance. *Diapason* does include an index to performers.

**Bielefelder-Katalog**
Listening/Viewing Ref. ML156.2 .B53
Bielefelder-Katalog is the German equivalent of *Schwann Opus* and is published semi-annually. This catalog also covers laser discs, videos, Digital Compact Cassettes, and MiniDiscs.
Finding Reviews

*International Index to Music Periodicals (IIMP)*
This electronic resource indexes, among other things, recording reviews. IIMP is available through BearCat, Baylor's online library catalog. BearCat is available at: bearcat.baylor.edu (click on "other library databases" and then the name of the database. Once you're on the search page, you can find reviews enter “recording reviews” in the “document type” field. Enter search terms in other fields as applicable.

*CD Review Digest-Classical*
Music Ref. ML156.9 .C366
Provides citations and excerpts of English-language reviews of compact disc and video disc recordings. The index is arranged alphabetically by composer and then by work. Entries note awards or special recognitions and also notes the length of the full review after the citation. CD Review Digest is published quarterly with annual accumulations and indexes reviews from 26 periodicals and other publications.

*The Good CD Guide*
Music Ref. 156.2 .G66x 1989
Based on reviews which first appeared in its parent publication, *Gramophone*. Focuses primarily on British recording labels.

*Index to Record Reviews*
Music Ref. ML156.9 .M89
This index originally appeared in five volumes covering reviews published in *Notes: The Journal of the Music Library Association* from 1949-1977. Supplements cover reviews from 1984-1987. The index covers approximately 50 periodicals and other publications. The index is organized by composer and for composite recordings, by manufacturer. Entries include a list of citations of reviews. Each citation is preceded by a symbol indicating the reviewer's judgment of the recording (+ “excellent”, • “adequate”, - “inadequate”, and □ “no clear statement”)

*Index to CD and Record Reviews, 1987-1997*
Music Ref. ML156.9 .P35x 1999
This three-volume index includes review originally published in *Notes: The Journal of the Music Library Association* from 1987-1997. The index is arranged by recording label and then by manufacturer's number. Volume 3 contains indexes by performers and composers as well as an index of anthologies. This index maintains the use of symbols established in *Index to Record Reviews* to indicate the reviewer's opinion of performance quality.

*Recorded Classical Music: A Critical Guide to Compositions and Performances*
ML156.9 .C63 1981
Evaluations of the recordings of 9000 works by more than 1800 composers. The guide is arranged alphabetically by composer and then subarranged by genre.
Records in Review
Music Ref. ML156.9 .H5 1980
Annual compilation of signed reviews which appeared in High Fidelity magazine during the previous year. Works are listed alphabetically by composer. Records in Review also includes an index of performers and sections of reviews of specific collections (eg., vocal, organ, woodwind and brass, miscellaneous, etc.).

Fanfare: The Magazine for Serious Record Collectors
music periodicals shelves
Fanfare is published bi-monthly. The bulk of the periodical is concerned with recording reviews. The signed reviews are arranged alphabetically by composer. Also included is a section reviewing collections.

Gramophone
music periodicals shelves
Gramophone is published monthly and is organized by genre. The index is arranged by composer, then work. The signed reviews include symbols noting the format of the recording, whether the recording is new or a reissue, and also if the recording is of historic importance.

Acquiring Recordings

In many instances the recording(s) you’ve selected may not be available for purchase locally. However, many recording retailers will special order for you at no additional cost (eg. Hastings: 772-5888, Wherehouse Music/Blockbuster Music 753-7500). The most important information when placing an order through a retail store is the name of the label which produced the recording and the manufacturer’s number which follows. This is the unique identifying number for that particular recording. It would also be helpful to have the following information: artist and/or ensemble, conductor, and title of the recording and/or title of the composition.

In addition, you may order recordings directly over the phone or Internet if you’re purchasing with a credit card. Below are several phone numbers and web sites that might be helpful:

Tower Records (New York)
(800) 648-4844

www.towerrecords.com

www.amazon.com

www.cduniverse.com

www.cdnow.com