

# WORDS & MUSIC

## at Gladstone's Library

Gladstone's library is mainly used for history and theology (the two main parts of the library) however one subject that has influenced both is music.

The subject's books are almost all hidden away in the Annex however have a high value none the less. Music is a core concept of culture and can have a huge influence on a person's mind. As a result I'd like to recommend the following books for anyone with an interest in music or music's impact on the mind, individuals and history. The library currently has around 634 books on music.

A prime example of a book which looks at precisely these things is:

*"The influence of music on history and morals: a vindication of Plato"* (published in 1928) by Cyril Scott (class mark **V 75/149**).

An alternative aspect of music is the effect that it has on individuals so I recommend *"A life of Love and Music"* by Hector Berlioz (**V 76/100** published in 1987) which is a good and seemingly accurate account of the composers' life written by himself.

Another way to see into composers lives was through the letters that they wrote, such as those by Felix Mendelssohn's (**V 75/24** (1888) & **V 75/46** (1864)), Robert Schumann's (**V 75/25** (1907)) and Beethoven's (**U 76/75a&b** (1866)) among others, letters are held here at the library.

For a musical history then a "*Historical Sketch of Music*" (V 75/39 (1886)) is a good brief introduction to the subject. However if you are looking for a bit more depth then look at "*The History of Music*" by Gray (V 75/121 (1928)).

Frustratingly, you are almost certain not to find everything you are looking for in one book but the library does have more detailed accounts of things such as ancient and medieval music if that is something that you require information on such as "*Early medieval music up to 1300*" by Anselm Hughes (V 75/85 (1954)).

A good book to look at some of the main composers is "*The Studies of Great Composers*" by C. Hubert and H. Parry (V 75/31 (1887)). It is an excellent introduction if you are researching composers and their autobiographies.

A slightly different strand of music that is rarely looked at is the infamous copyright. A book covering some of the Victorian copyright and piracy is James Coovers "*Music publishing, copyright and piracy in Victorian England: a twenty-five year chronicle, 1881-1906, from the pages of the Musical Opinion and Music Trade Review and other English music journals of the period*" (V 75/116 (1985)) which has an interestingly detailed account.

"*The Decline of the English Musician*" by A.V. Beedell (V76/92 (1992)) is an interesting look at the period of 1788-1888. In its mass of detail the book offers insights into the social functions of music, its performance, economics, and the cultural values claimed or denied it by both producers and consumers.

However, the book that interests me the most from a music perspective is currently kept in the theology room and is titled "*Resonant witness: conversations between music and theology*" by J. Begbie and S.R. Guthrie (E19.8/269 (2011)) and as the name suggests deals with how music has affected theology and vice versa.



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*This reading list has been produced by Simon John Nathan Rowland as part of the work experience at Gladstone's Library week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014.*