



USEFUL WEBSITES AND ORGANISATIONS WHEN RESEARCHING MUSIC/SONGS

The first step when searching for any information is to try **Google!** Titles are often available online, sometimes downloadable without charge. Although, be aware that sometimes the information is not always accurate and some song lyrics can differ from the original lyrics. However, it is a good place to start and can often reveal some surprises.

There are a range of places/websites that might be able to help you locate that song that perhaps you remember from your childhood or an ancestor may have sung. Here are a few suggestions:

The British Music Hall Society

www.britishmusichallsociety.com

The Society has a range of sheet music in our archives and our two historians have a personal collection of sheet music which is available electronically or by post.

The cost of research is free to members (although there will be a charge for any items posted) and for non-members there is a minimum donation of £10 (payable in advance)

For more information please e-mail your enquiry to: contact@britishmusichallsociety.com

British Library

www.explore.bl.uk

If your title is listed in the online catalogue you can go to the British Library at St Pancras, London (on the corner of Euston Road and Midland Road) although you have to pre-register to become a 'Reader'.

You may then order the sheet music through the computerised system and copy it out by hand (items may not be taken off the premises and copying must be done in pencil) or in some circumstances take a photograph.

If you are unable to travel to London you may order online from www.bl.uk/digitisation-services

There is a charge for this service.

Bodleian Library

www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

This library in Oxford has a great selection of music hall songs where you may copy items out by hand and also photocopy, or you may prefer to take advantage of the postal service whose charges are similar to the BL's. Call **01865 277062** and ask for the Music Section.

Each entry offers a detailed description of every song sheet in the collection, including first lines of verses and choruses. Again make a note of the cataloguing details (Location and Call Number) before ordering. Photocopies may be ordered online from: www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/bodley/services/copy/photocopying/postal.

Dinosaur Discs

www.78rpm.co.uk

This site has an immense collection of old 78s and will send you copies or make up a compilation on CD. Visit the website or call 01692 631 540

Library Hub Discovery

www.copac.ac.uk

Some 70 catalogues, including the Bodleian and the British Library may be searched simultaneously through this site giving access to over 72,000 titles. There is a charge of around £10 per song.

Lyrics Playground

www.lyricsplayground.com

A further vast collection of song lyrics (over 45,0000) is viewable on their website

Mechanical Copyright Protection Society/The Performing Right Society

<https://www.prsformusic.com>

Information about songs, though not actual copies, may be gleaned from this site which lists titles under their current copyright holders.

Send your queries by email to details@MCPS.co.uk

Monologues - Music Hall

www.monologues.co.uk

This collection is particularly useful for song lyrics and has been put together by a group of friends and music hall enthusiasts. The lyrics of many songs popular between the years 1860 - 1920 can be found here. Sheet music for 100 song titles is free to download as a PDF file.

Music Room

www.musicroom.com

This site offers instrumental arrangements as well as free vocal sheet music.

Parlour Songs

www.parlorsongs.com

An American website boasting over 300,000 songs may be downloaded in audio from the website.

Sheet Music Direct

www.sheetmusicdirect.com

Sheet Music Warehouse

www.sheetmusicwarehouse.co.uk

The Sheet Music Warehouse is a collection of Original Sheet Music of all types and dates, some 50% of the stock being over 100 years old. The collection was started in the late 1980's as a side line to the piano shop in Paignton, Devon. Over the following years the piano shop gathered dozens of large and small collections from all parts of the United Kingdom and with the support of the piano business the Sheet Music Warehouse matured in its own right. By the year 2005 the piano shop had been sold on as a going concern and the Sheet Music Warehouse came into its own.

As of April 2017 the sheet music stock comprises of some 112,000 itemised different titles divided into 26 easily searched categories. New stock is acquired and added regularly.

BOOKS

GAMMOND, PETER, *The Oxford Companion to Popular Music* (1991)

KILGARRIFF, MICHAEL, *Sing Us One of the Old Songs* (OUP 1998)

www.michaelkilgariff.co.uk

This book cross-catalogues some 18,000 popular songs and singers from 1850-1920.

*The information has been compiled for **The British Music Hall Society** and was last updated in May 2020.*

*Our thanks to **Michael Kilgariff** for providing some of the information*

If you would like the British Music Hall Society Historians/Archivist to research an artiste or song on your behalf please e-mail contact@britishmusichallsociety.com

The cost of research is free to members and for non- members there is a minimum donation of £10 (payable in advance)