



INTERNATIONAL

Searching for choral repertoire:

Why you should use MUSICANET.ORG rather than GOOGLE !

Some choral conductors sometimes ask us this question. Decisive arguments abound!

Musica is definitely better suited to search for information on the choral repertoire. Judge by yourself:

- 1) Musica database references the "scores" of "choral music" and does not drown in all other areas like Google,...
- 2) Musica is a "structured" database. This means that there exists a specific field for each type of information describing a score (composer, title, type of choir, number of voices, tonality, genre, style, form, instrumentation, liturgical use, ...).

*Try searching in Google for Swiss choral scores for mixed voices in French, for the harvest festival, lasting about 5 minutes. **Good luck!** In Musica, you will find these scores in a highly focused manner, just by filling in the search form with these criteria.*

- 3) In some search forms, such as the one found on the www.musicanet.org homepage, several types of information are grouped together in a single field, for greater user-friendliness, so that one does not need to know in which one the information is stored (eg words of title or keywords or genre, style, form or liturgical use or... in a single question). By questioning these "grouped fields", one arrives at a behavior similar to that of Google while taking advantage of the targeting exposed in other paragraphs of this page, and without mixing all the descriptive information of the score "in one basket".
- 4) In Musica, several search forms are available so that the user can choose the one that is most suitable for the search he wants to do or that he manages best, and this from the beginner knowing only the "Google type" (who will first use the form on the musicanet.org homepage) up to a professional librarian wanting to use complex search equations, with bracketing, with operators "and", "or", "except", "contains", "begins with", "equal to" (who will use the expert search form for this).

5) All the important data of each record are automatically translated into 4 languages (by use of multilingual thesauri for 16 fields - keywords, type of choir, text language, genre, style, form, liturgical use... - no use of fanciful automatic translators), thus allowing access to "all" the data, even those introduced into Musica in a language other than that used by the visitor.

Information on Spanish pieces can thus be searched in English and posted in English, even if it is a Spaniard who made the input of the data in Spanish.

6) A Musica record includes "all" the information about the score into a single entity: one finds the bibliographic description, but also the multimedia links (video, audio clip, text, translations, pronunciation of the text, image of a page...).

7) The information is constantly checked and improved by the Musica coordination team, *i.e.* by choral conductors and music librarians. Although one continues (and will ever continue) to find errors, their proportion is continuously decreasing (and any error reported is a error corrected!).

8) For links to videos: the Musica team selects only the good performances by good choirs, unlike Google and Youtube where the best is mixed with the worst! You won't have to watch many versions before you finally find one that is listenable! The Musica team did it for you ...

9) In the composers' file, nearly 20,000 composers (as on June 2022) have one or more links to detailed biographies, sometimes found with difficulty on the web and systematically checked by the Musica team.

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We are not saying here that Musica contains everything and that Google is not helpful:

- In Musica, there are thousands of scores that are not referenced in Google ... and vice versa. If you are looking for a specific score (title, composer and publisher) and cannot find it in Musica, try Google as a second step...
- More and more, you will find in Google ... pages generated in Musica (there are already over a million of them) because Google indexes the "pages" that it visits on the web, while Musica dynamically builds these pages in real time with the information contained in the database, which gives an almost infinite number of combinations according to the asked questions.

And finally, do not forget that the www.musicanet.org website also contains additional options handled by the Musica team with a human and musical sensibility, which are not the database, but which use it:

- Discover the choral repertoire in the list of favorite pieces of the month
- Browse through the auditorium, which is a compilation of all the audio and video links of Musica
- Have a list of important anniversaries (jubilees, ...) of composers

Use Musica without moderation, and spread the good news in your choral surrounding!

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