

Websites



Websites can be helpful to music researchers in two respects: they provide information in their own right and they can also link you to other sites where you can find the information you are looking for. On the *Music in Words* website I have listed sites from both categories. Most of the sites listed are free, but some (sometimes called ‘password-protected sites’) may only be available by subscription. However, as I explain in Chapter 3, many password-protected sites are available through computers in college or public libraries. The list of music sites is followed by a list of other useful sites. You will find that many of the sites are linked to each other.

I have given priority to music ‘meta-sites’ or portals. These are sites that do not simply provide information about the services and facilities offered by an organization or institution; they also give links to many other relevant sites worldwide.

You should explore these sites to find the ones that are reliable and most useful to you. Keep a collection of ‘bookmarks’ (or ‘favourites’). But be selective; always evaluate the sites and compare them with each other. I should emphasize that it is important for you not to rely entirely on websites for information. You will see that the best sites regularly direct their readers to printed books. This is the best way to use these sites. Use them as a tool for finding things; do not rely on the web to provide you with all the detailed information you are looking for.

Some sites have an interactive facility: for example, the British Library site allows you to search its catalogues. You should remember (as I pointed out earlier) the difference between the American and English spelling of some words when using these search facilities, and also remember not to type characters that look similar but are entirely different as far as the computer is concerned (such as the letters O and I and the figures 0 and 1, or the letter l and the figure 1).

The *Music in Words* website has links to all sites mentioned in this book. It is regularly updated.