



# Streaming audio services in Canadian academic libraries

Jared Wiercinski  
Concordia University  
Digital Services and  
Outreach Librarian  
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# Concordia Libraries Pilot Project

## Purpose:

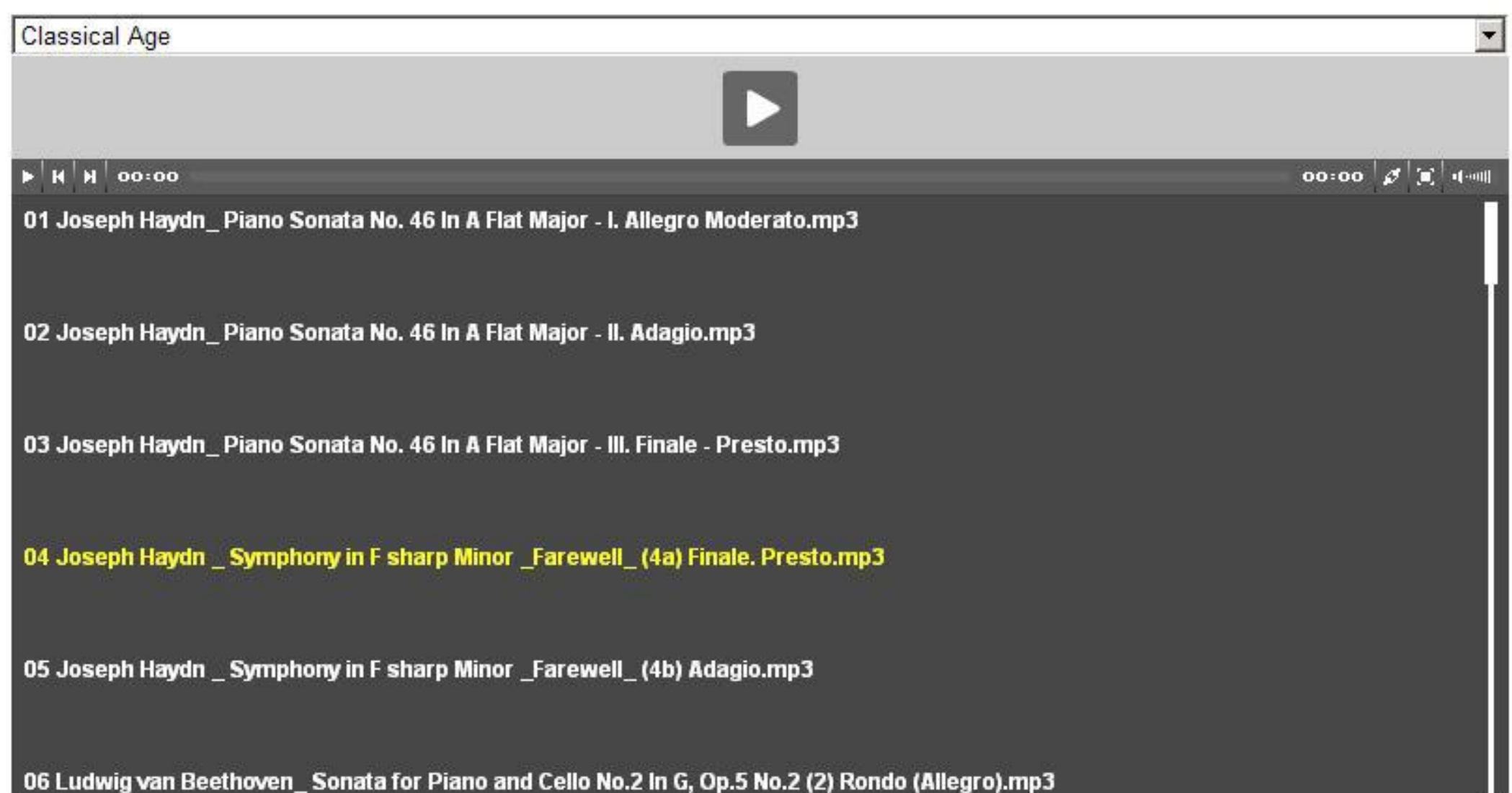
- Improve access to sound recordings
- Keep the library relevant to students
- Help students listen to the right music
- Chance to learn about some of the issues involved:
  - technology requirements (i.e. hardware and software)
  - staffing and training requirements
  - copyright
  - demand for the service

## Description and scope:

- Two courses (Winter 2009 semester):
  - MUSI 265 – Rock and Roll and it's Roots
  - FFAR 398m – Understanding Music
- Sound recordings not available in our subscription databases (i.e. Naxos or Classical Music Library)
- Sound recordings required for a particular course (not all of our CD's)
- Streaming audio would be limited to students taking the course

## Screenshot: the music player

### FFAR 398m - Understanding Music



## Behind the scenes:

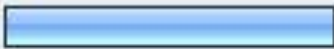
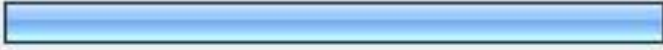


- Created the mp3s with iTunes
- Imported the metadata from Gracenote
- Created a web page using:
  - HTML
  - Javascript
  - JW Flash Player (supports progressive downloading, streaming)
  - XML playlists created using a Visual Basic script
- Moved all of these files behind our Web Access Management (WAM) software


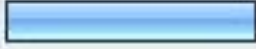

## Screenshot: folder and file structure

Name	Size	Type
Baroque		File Folder
Classical		File Folder
Contemporary		File Folder
EarlyXXthCentury		File Folder
Folk		File Folder
Medieval		File Folder
Non-Western		File Folder
PostWWII		File Folder
Renaissance		File Folder
Romantic		File Folder
index.html	3 KB	HTML Document
nacht.swf	8 KB	Shockwave Flash Object
player.swf	39 KB	Shockwave Flash Object
playlist1.xml	13 KB	XML Document
playlist2.xml	30 KB	XML Document
playlist3.xml	21 KB	XML Document
playlist4.xml	53 KB	XML Document
playlist5.xml	4 KB	XML Document
playlist6.xml	8 KB	XML Document
playlist7.xml	18 KB	XML Document
playlist8.xml	15 KB	XML Document
playlist9.xml	4 KB	XML Document
playlist10.xml	49 KB	XML Document
swfobject.js	10 KB	JScript Script File

Name	Size	Type
01 Anonymous _ Discurso de ecos.mp3	10,282 KB	MP3 Format Sound
02 Claudio Monteverdi_ Madrigals, Book no.7 _Lettera Amorosa_.mp3	10,342 KB	MP3 Format Sound
03 Domenico Scarlatti_ Sonata C Maj, L. 104.mp3	3,145 KB	MP3 Format Sound
04 Domenico Scarlatti_ Sonata F min, L. 118.mp3	12,332 KB	MP3 Format Sound
05 Georg Friedrich Handel_ Carmelite Vespers - Dixit Dominus Domino Meo.mp3	7,497 KB	MP3 Format Sound
06 Georg Friedrich Handel_ Carmelite Vespers - De Torrente.mp3	4,568 KB	MP3 Format Sound
07 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Kleines harmonisches Labyrinth, BWV 591.mp3	9,028 KB	MP3 Format Sound
08 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Brandenburg Concerto no.2 In F, BWV 1047 - 1. Allegro.mp3	7,498 KB	MP3 Format Sound
09 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Brandenburg Concerto no.2 In F, BWV 1047 - 2. Andante.mp3	5,483 KB	MP3 Format Sound
10 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Brandenburg Concerto no.2 In F BWV 1047 - 3. Allegro Assai.mp3	4,219 KB	MP3 Format Sound
11 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 - Aria.mp3	4,355 KB	MP3 Format Sound
12 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 - Var. 6_ Canone Alla Seconda.mp3	946 KB	MP3 Format Sound
13 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 - Var. 18_ Canone Alla Sesta.mp3	1,481 KB	MP3 Format Sound
14 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 - Var. 27_ Canone Alla Nona.mp3	1,911 KB	MP3 Format Sound
15 Johann Sebastian Bach_ Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 - Var. 30_ Quodlibet.mp3	2,113 KB	MP3 Format Sound
16 Sebastian Durón_ Ondas, riscos, pezes, mares_.mp3	4,172 KB	MP3 Format Sound
17 Sigismondo d'India_ Piange Madonna.mp3	3,176 KB	MP3 Format Sound

# Student reaction:

1. Overall how would you rate Concordia Libraries' online music service?			Response Percent
Excellent			26.7%
Above average			53.3%
Average			13.3%
Below average			0.0%
Poor			6.7%

2. Would you be interested in a similar service that made course-related music available to your phone or mobile device?			Response Percent
Yes			46.7%
Maybe			20.0%
No			33.3%

### 3. Do you have any comments or suggestions? (For example, what did you like or dislike about the service?)

*"The website with the 6 cd's on it was just about perfect, i loved it. The only thing ( and I don't even know if this is possible) is that it would have been really helpful if there was an option to shuffle the songs - i ended up simply memorizing a lot of them based on their order on the CD, and shuffling would have prevented that."*

🎵

*"Yes, the scroll down bar should move automatically up/down with the song that is playing. Kind of like iTunes, where the song that is currently playing is in the middle of the screen."*

🎵

*"I wish that the listening list was offered in the Varrier Library as well. It is just a hassle to take a laptop downtown. Especially if the Music Department is at Loyola."*

🎵

*"Make the songs available for download. That would help because, I don't always have the time to stay in front of the computer for more than an hour or two."*

🎵

*"It was very practical, but if left un-used for too long on the screen, I would have to sign in all over again which was a little annoying. All in all, very good service!"*

🎵

*"One thing that would have been helpful would be if you could download the music onto your computer rather than having to always be logged into the Concordia library website"*

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*"It would have been great if the songs could be downloaded to the computer directly from the online course reserve because it would make studying easier. (For example, it would allow us to put the songs on our iPods or even just on our computer) Regardless, overall, I enjoyed the service..."*

🎵

*"It would have been nice to play the stuff on my iPod. Also, whenever you left your computer on the site for a while, you would have to log in again (nothing serious, just a bit annoying)."*

🎵

*"I was pleased with the fact that the music never froze and I didn't have to re-enter the site."*

🎵

*"It would be great if there was a shuffle mode for each discs so that students could study the material a little better."*

🎵

*"I think it's fine."*

🎵

*"Maybe make the online service a little easier to understand. how to log on, where to go to access the materiel. I had a bit of trouble figuring it out at the beginning of semester, but once I did it was a great service!"*

🎵

*"I like how fast it is to stream the music..you should try to make the appearance more user-friendly tho. But very helpful overall."*

🎵

*"It was really helpful, especially for the way it was accessible everywhere. I like the link featured for each songs, it really help for studying, and to find more info about the artists and their music. The only inconvenience that kept bothering me was how it kept disconnected, if i didn't listened the music after a couple of minutes (if outside of school)."*

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*"It would be nice if we could download the music onto our computers so that we don't have to log onto the internet to retrieve them"*

🎵

## Issues:

- Technical
  - Safari
  - Maintaining compatibility (newest versions of browsers, Flash, etc.)
- Copyright
  - Outdated law
  - To some extent, ambiguous until a ruling has been made
  - Section 29: "Fair dealing for the purpose of research or private study does not infringe copyright."
  - "The absence of a clear resolution of this difficulty means that libraries must create reserve policies based more on acceptable risk than established precedent" (Durham p. 109)
- Resources
  - Staff time (ex. checking in Naxos / CML)
  - Server space

## Future directions:

- Full fledged service
- Moodle
- Mobile

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