

Streaming audio services in Canadian academic libraries

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Concordia Libraries Pilot Project

Purpose:

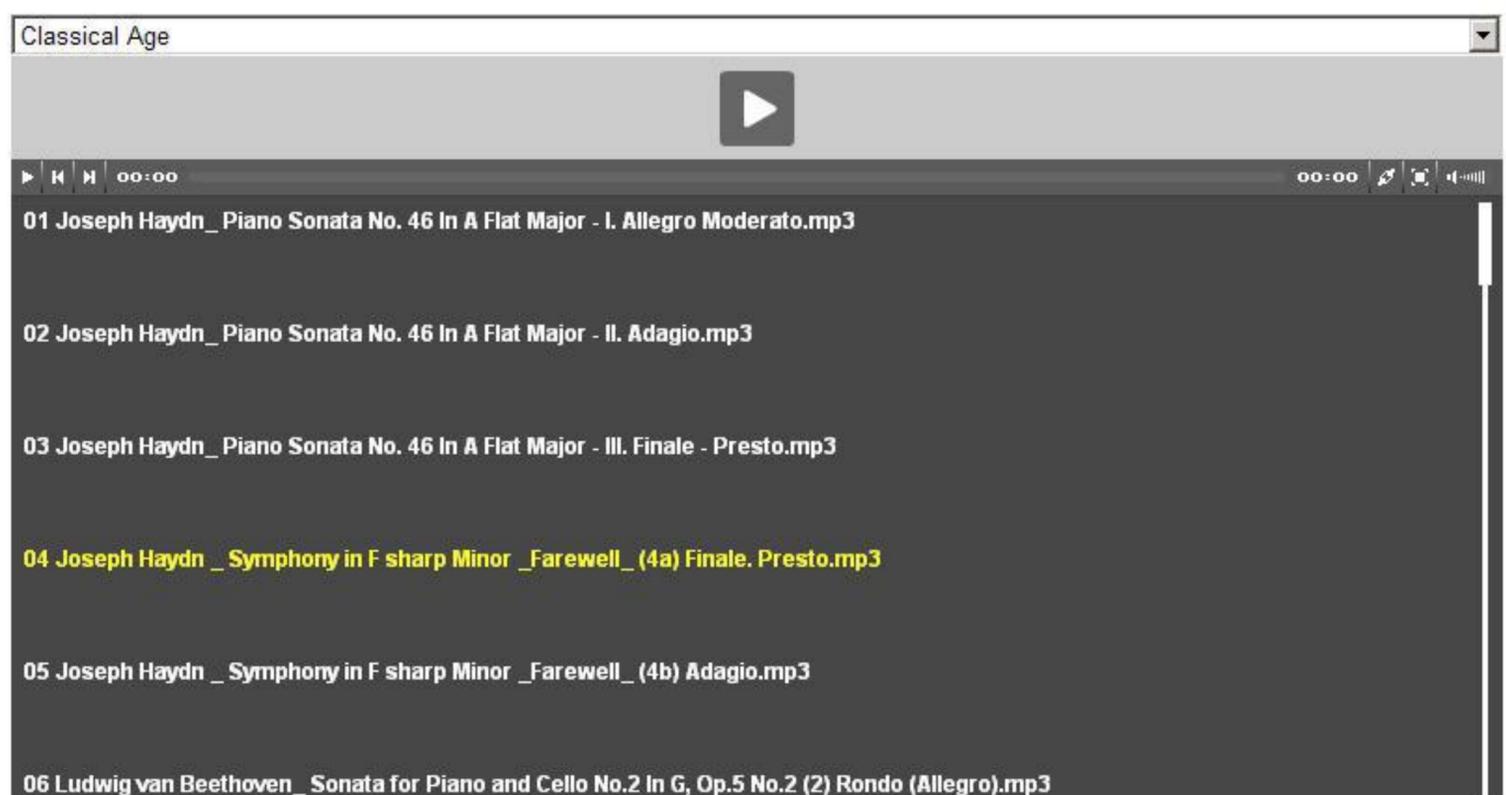
- Improve access to sound recordings
- Keep the library relevant to students
- Help students listen to the right music
- Chance to learn about some of the issues involved:
 - technology requirements (i.e. hardware and software)
 - staffing and training requirements
 - copyright
 - demand for the service

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:

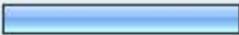
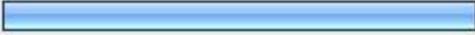
- Created the mp3s with iTunes
- Imported the metadata from Gracenote
- Created a web page using:
 - HTML
 - Javascript
 - JW Flash Player (supports progressive downloading, streaming)
 - XML playlists created using a Visual Basic script
- Moved all of these files behind our Web Access Management (WAM)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

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"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."

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"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."

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"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."

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"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!"

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"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..."

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"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)."

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

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

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"I think it's fine."

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"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!"

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"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."

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"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"

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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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