

birds & music



Spring is finally here in Kansas City and the air around us is filled with birdsong. These songs and their makers have long inspired musicians, who have woven birds' trills and twitters into their musical language, seeking to capture their funny habits and majestic beauty.

The oldest known documented English song, "Sumer Is Icomen In," references the cuckoo, written down in 1260. Since then, these feathered muses inspire and delight.

Check out more of our bird-inspired music in the UMKC Music/Media Library!



<https://library.umkc.edu/news/tunes-that-tweet>

Tunes That Tweet



MUSIC INSPIRED BY THE
WORLD'S ORIGINAL SONGSTERS

CURATED BY UMKC MUSIC/MEDIA
LIBRARY STAFF AND STUDENT
ASSISTANT ABBY FOEHRKOLBA

Books

- Birds Eye View: Dancing With Martha Graham and On Broadway*, Dorothy Bird GV1783 .B57 1997
William Byrd and his Contemporaries: Essays and a Monograph, Philip Brett ML410.B996 B74 2007
Lyrebird Rising: Louise Hanson-Dyer of Oiseau-Lyre, 1884-1962, Jim Davidson ML427.H34 D38 1994
Bird: The Life and Music of Charlie Parker, Chuck Haddix ML419.P4 H34 2013
Byrd, Imogen Holst ML410 .B996 H6
Sung Birds: Music, Nature, and Poetry in the Later Middle Ages, Elizabeth Eva Leach ML190 .L43 2007
The Whistling Blackbird, Robert Morris ML200.5.M67 2010
Humans, Nature, and Birds, Darryl Wheye QL673 .W48 2008

CDs

- The Bass and the Bird Pond*, Jon Raskin Quartet CD 2000:374
Birds of a Feather, Phil Woods Quartet CD 2009:62
Bird Songs, North Texas Chamber Players CD 2004:1010
Light as a Feather Chick Corea CD 2002:38
Listen to the Mocking Bird, Chestnut Brass Company CD 2014:1436
The Many Faces of Bird, Charlie Parker CD 2009:449
Music of Marion Bauer & Ruth Crawford Seeger CD 2005:577
Red Bird, Trevor Wishart CD 2004:2
Tell the Birds, Eve Beglarian CD 2006:327
Thirteen Ways, Eighth Blackbird CD 2011:487

DVDs

- Birds* QH105.M8 B57 2004
The Birds, Alfred Hitchcock PN1995.9 .H6 B5 2000
Celebrating Bird ML419.P4 C44 2009
The Magic Flute M1500 .M84 Z382 2006
March of the Penguins QL696.S473 .M37 2005
The Rite of Spring/The Fire-bird M1520.S9 V47 2004
Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake M1520.T34 L42 2000
Audubon Videoguide to 505 birds of North America QL681 .A972 2004

Scores

- Three Canticles of the Birds*, John Luther Adams M284 .P4 A2222 2014
Two pieces, op. 92: for piano solo, Amy Marcy Cheney Beach M25 .B4 op.92 2012
Bird Spirits: Nine Piano Pieces, William Bolcom M25.B634 B56 2011
When the Dove Enters in, Margaret Bonds M1621.B657 W43 2021
The Birds, Benjamin Britten M1621.B77 B5
For Zitkála-Šá, Raven Chacon M1470.C43 F47 2022
Oiseaux Romantiques de Paris, Adolphus Hailstork M357.2 H34 O56 2018
Freeing the Caged Bird, Barbara Harbach M557.2 .H26 F63 2006
Like A Bird: Hommage À GYÖRGY KURTÁG, Adriana Hölszky Oversize M42.H64 L54 2006
Bird Fragments III, Toshio Hosokawa M357.2 .H675 B53 2003
Pink Breasted Robin, Elena Kats-Chernin M452.K375 P56 2016
Birds of Paradise.: On the Infinite Efflorescence of Living Things, John La Montaine M1010.L25 B57 1966
Bird Songs, Liza Lehmann M1978.B5 L45 1907
Four Australian Birds, David Matthews M42.M37 F68 2016
Fantasia on "Song of the Birds", Akira Nishimura M47.N57 T66 2007
Bird-like: Five Scenes for Sinfonietta, Cooper Riley Ottum (Freely Available Online)
The Flight of the Brave Chicken: Ode to Nina, Shulamit Ran M289.R27 F45 2021
Birds of Paradise, Shulamit Ran M242.R26 B46 2014
Aile du songe, Kaija Saariaho M1020.S22 A34 2002
The Gentle Water Bird, Margaret Sutherland M1621.3 .S87 G46 2005
Gazers (Hawk vs. Chen Yi), Zhou Long M452.Z66 G3 2010

LPs

- American Bird Songs* Cornell University Records: CH-1026 v.2
Bird is Free Charlie Parker Esquire: 32-157
First Cuckoo Deodato MCA Records: MCA-491
The Hawk Flies High Riverside: RLP 12-233
Mr. Hands Herbie Hancock Columbia: JC 36578
Nothing will be as it was-- Tomorrow Flora Purim Warner Brothers Records: BS 2985
Rare Bird Rare Bird Probe: CPLP-4514-S
Voices of the Loon National Audubon Society: NAS-1001

Online Resources

NaxosA

- For The Birds* Laurence Trott
"Accordion Sonata No. 2, 'Black Birds'" *Accordion Sonatas Nos. 1 and 2, "Black Birds"* Kalevi Aho
Complete Bird Music for Piano Solo Olivier Messiaen
From Byrd to Birds Musica Dolce
"Night's Black Bird" *Night's Black Bird / The Shadow of Night / The Cry of Anubis* Hallé Orchestra

ArticlesA

- "Vocal Learning and Songbirds: An Evolutionary Tale of Singing," Heidi Moss Erickson, *Journal of Singing*, 2022.
"Investigating Bird Call Identification Uncertainty Using Data from Processed Audio Recordings," James A. Mortimer and Terry C. Greene, *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 2017.
"Birdsong: Not All Contest but also Cooperation?," Katharina Riebel and Naomi E. Langmore, *Science Direct*, 2023.
"Cockatiels Sing Human Music in Synchrony with a Playback of the Melody," Yoshimasa Seki, *PLOS ONE*, 2021.

eBooksA

- Red Bird Sings: The Story of Zitkala-Ša, Native American Author, Musician, and Activist*, Gina Capaldi and Q. L. Pearce, 2011.
Bird Song: Biological Themes and Variations, C. K. Catchpole and P. J. B. Slater, 2008.
Animal Musicalities: Birds, Beasts, and Evolutionary Listening, Rachel Mundy, 2018.
Is Birdsong Music?: Outback Encounters with an Australian Songbird, Hollis Taylor, 2017.

Music and Performing ArtsA

- Beach Birds for Camera*, Elliot Caplan/Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Alexander Street
Symbolic Dance: The Conference of Birds, Linda Lewett, Alexander Street
For Bird with Love, Masazumi Chaya/Alvin Ailey/Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alexander Street