

RISM like a Pro: Tips, Tricks, and Mistakes to Avoid

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Contents

- Common questions
- Quick tips
- Search strategies
- Insider tricks
- Common mistakes
- Suggestions from our users

User study

- Online survey of the OPAC
 - 551 responses total, 36 countries
- Observational study
 - 13 people carried out 44 tasks
- Results and analysis on the [RISM website](#)

RISM...



- Has a free, online catalog
 - www.rism.info and opac.rism.info
 - OCLC record: [884778496](https://oclc.org/record/884778496)
- Documents musical sources: manuscripts, prints, libretti, treatises
 - The other R projects have other goals (literature, periodicals, iconography). See www.r-musicprojects.org

Common questions: What's in RISM?



- Geographical scope
 - Europe and North America
 - Asia: Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan
 - Australia, New Zealand
 - Latin America: Mexico, Brazil

All countries welcome!

Common questions: What's in RISM?



- Chronological scope
 - 1600 - ca. 1850 for many contributing groups
 - No chronological limit for other groups
 - From ca. 1300 ([900011454](#)) to 2016 ([290003236](#))

All time periods welcome!

Common questions: Incipit search

Home Previous searches My lists deutsch english

RISM Répertoire International des Sources Musicales

Music incipit

All fields

Title

Composer

Genre

Music incipit

Music incipit (with transposition)

Other names

Catalog of works number

Key

Provenance

Source type

Watermarks

Liturgical festival

Institution

Scoring

Library siglum

RISM ID no.

Year

Shelfmark

Language

Clear Search

Music incipit: Exact search

Music incipit (with transposition): Anything with the same intervals

Music incipit (with transposition):

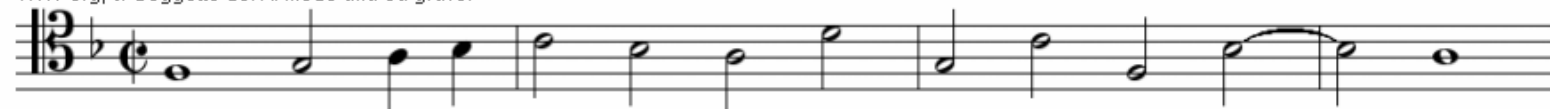
Bach, BWV 846 (RISM ID no. [230005352](#))

1.2.1 pf, c Fuga. 1. a 4.; C



Della Ciaia, *Soggetto* (RISM ID no. [000142611](#))

1.1.1 org, c/ Soggetto del XI Modo alla 5a grave.



-Rests, accidentals, rhythms ignored

-Incipits in records are longer than your incipit search string

Incipit search with the keyboard

All fields

and Title

and Composer

and Music incipit via on-screen keyboard (with transposition) ExDExDE

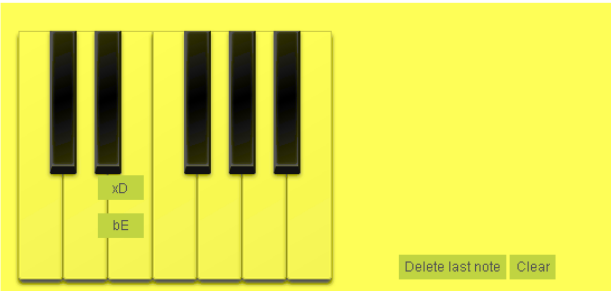
and

▼ **Limit search**

Document Type no restriction

Source Type no restriction

▼ **On-screen keyboard**



Music incipit: Exact search

Music incipit (with transposition): Anything with the same intervals

-Search sharps, flats, accidentals, enharmonic tones

Incipit search with the keyboard

All fields

and Title

and Composer beethoven

and Music incipit via on-screen keyboard (with transpo: ExDExDE


and

▼ **Limit search**

Document Type no restriction

Source Type no restriction

▼ **On-screen keyboard**



-Combine with other search fields

Flexibility

1.1.2 S, c ; E



– Care luci deh cessate

- BbAgfDE = Without grace note
Uppercase or lowercase
- BBAGF**E**DE = With grace note
- B**BB**BAGFDE = Without grace note + tie
- B**BB**BAGF**E**DE = With grace note + tie

Quick tips

- Clear search (Advanced search)
- Sort search results
- Change number of hits per page

Quick tips

- Clear search (Advanced search)

The image shows a screenshot of an advanced search interface. It features a series of search criteria fields, each with a dropdown menu for the field name and a text input for the search term. The criteria are: "All fields" (dropdown), "and" (dropdown), "Title" (dropdown), "and" (dropdown), "Composer" (dropdown), "caccini" (text input), "and" (dropdown), "Music incipit via on-screen keyboard (with transpo:" (dropdown), and "and" (dropdown). Below these fields are two buttons: "Clear" (highlighted in yellow) and "Search".

Two red callout boxes provide tips:

- One callout points to the "Clear" button with the text: "Clear your search before you start again!".
- Another callout points to the "Source Type" dropdown menu with the text: "You probably forgot you selected 'Print' in the previous search!".

Below the search criteria, there are two sections:

- Limit search**: A dropdown menu for "Document Type" set to "no restriction" and a dropdown menu for "Source Type" set to "Print".
- On-screen keyboard**: A section header with a dropdown arrow.

Quick tips

- Sort the search results
- Change number of hits per page

Home Previous searches My lists deutsch english

RISM Répertoire International des Sources Musicales

Search Advanced search

Print Send Save Atom feed

Your search request: Author name = caccini

Narrow results 25 result(s) << 1 2 3 >>

Select titles: all none Save in: Temporary list Save

Sort by: Author (ascendir Sort

max. results/page 10 Show

1. Caccini, Francesca Songs - V, 2 V RISM AI C 2

2. Caccini, Francesca Operas - RISM AI C 3

3. Caccini, Francesca La Liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina (Excerpts) - Coro (2), strings, harmonium; Manuscript; I-Raf 9.F.6.II.4

4. Caccini, Francesca La Liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina (Excerpts) - Coro (2), b; Manuscript; I-Raf 9.F.6.II.2 (1)

Genre: Operas (11), Madrigals (3), Arias (voc.) (1), Motets (1), Overtures (1), Show more ...

Composer: Caccini, Giulio (15), Caccini, Francesca (9), Peri, Jacopo (1)

Source type: Manuscript (14), Print (11)

Scoring: Coro (2), b (3), Coro (2) (2), S V (1), Coro (2), strings, h... (1), Coro, b (1), Show more ...

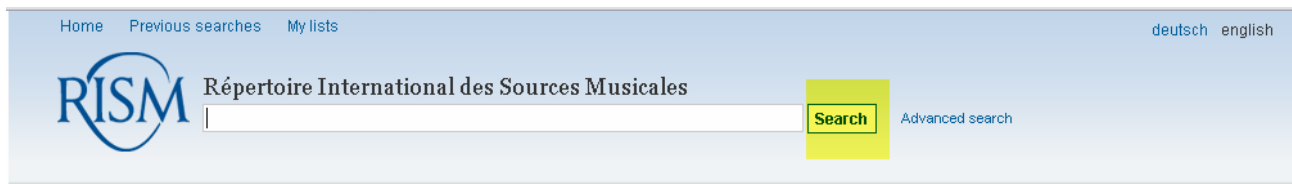
Publisher: Vincenti, Giacomo (4)

Search strategies

- Generic titles (sonatas, quartets...): Start with the advanced search and search in **Title** or **Genre**
- Or do a simple search for “sonatas” and use the filters to narrow down
- Distinctive titles or non-prolific composer: Simple search
- Incipit search: Start with around 7 notes and add or subtract notes one by one

Insider tricks: All records

- View all RISM records at once: Simply click “Search”...



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the RISM website. On the left, there are links for "Home", "Previous searches", and "My lists". On the right, there are language options for "deutsch" and "english". The main header features the RISM logo (Répertoire International des Sources Musicales) and a search input field. A yellow "Search" button is positioned to the right of the input field, with a link for "Advanced search" located further to the right.

Insider tricks: All records

- ...and you'll get all of the records. From there, browse using the filters on the left.

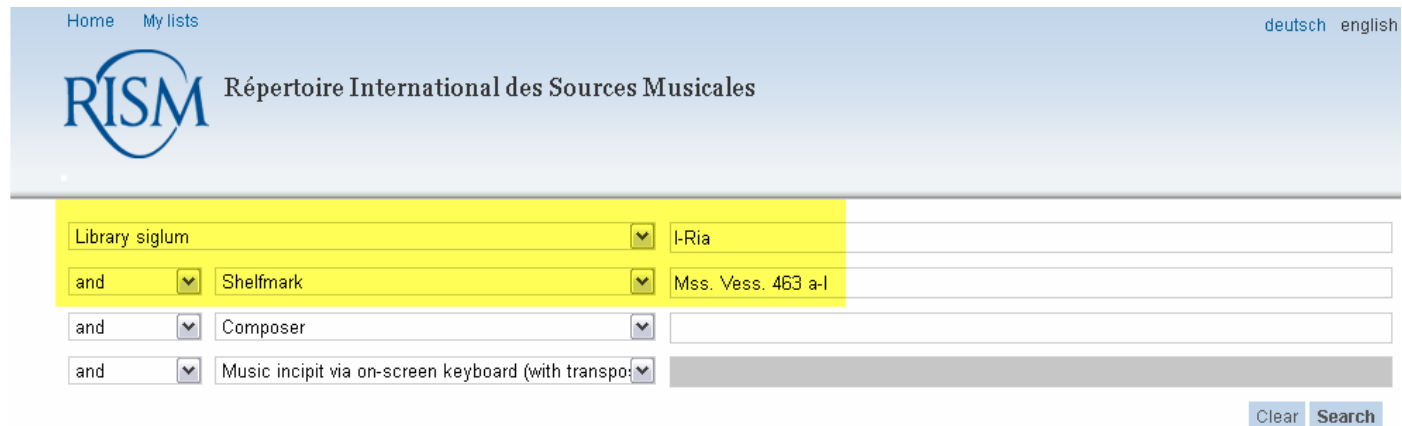
The screenshot shows the RISM website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Home', 'Previous searches', and 'My lists', along with language options for 'deutsch' and 'english'. The RISM logo and the full name 'Répertoire International des Sources Musicales' are prominently displayed. A search bar is present with a 'Search' button and a link to 'Advanced search'. Below the search bar, there are icons for 'Print', 'Send', 'Save', and 'Atom feed'. The search request is shown as 'No search term'. The results section is titled 'Narrow results' and shows '1046662 result(s)'. On the right side of the results section, there are navigation arrows and page numbers '1', '2', '3', '4', '5'. Below the results section, there are three columns: 'Select titles:' with options 'all' and 'none', 'Save in:' with a dropdown menu set to 'Temporary list' and a 'Save' button, and 'Sort by:' with a dropdown menu set to 'unsorted' and a 'Sort' button. To the right of these columns is a 'max. results/page' dropdown set to '10' and a 'Show' button. The results list consists of three entries, each with a checkbox, a small icon, and a title:

Select titles:	Save in:	Sort by:	max. results/page
all none	Temporary list Save	unsorted Sort	10 Show
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.		Collection Akatonbo und die Libelle flog - Print; D-DI Mus.1-C-524	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.		Schwarze, Günter Akatonbo und die Libelle flog - Print; D-DI Mus.1-C-523	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.		Krätschmar, Wilfried Suites - orch; Autograph; D-DI Mus.15455-P-504	

On the left side of the results section, there are filters for 'Digitized music (18708)', 'Genre', and 'Composer'. The 'Genre' filter includes 'Sacred songs (130013)', 'Operas (69055)', 'Motets (40029)', 'Cantatas (36410)', and 'Lieder (36280)'. The 'Composer' filter includes 'Anonymus (204695)', 'Collection (40299)', 'Haydn, Joseph (12549)', 'Mozart, Wolfgang Ama... (11849)', and 'Händel, Georg Friedrich (10492)'. There is also a 'Source type' filter with 'Manuscript (821738)'.

Insider tricks: Collections

- To page through collections:



The screenshot shows the RISM website header with navigation links for 'Home' and 'My lists', and language options for 'deutsch' and 'english'. The RISM logo and the text 'Répertoire International des Sources Musicales' are displayed. Below the header is a search form with four rows of input fields. The first two rows are highlighted in yellow. The first row has a dropdown menu labeled 'Library siglum' with 'I-Ria' selected. The second row has a dropdown menu labeled 'and' with 'and' selected, followed by a dropdown menu labeled 'Shelfmark' with 'Shelfmark' selected, and a text input field containing 'Mss. Vess. 463 a-I'. The third row has a dropdown menu labeled 'and' with 'and' selected, followed by a dropdown menu labeled 'Composer' with 'Composer' selected, and an empty text input field. The fourth row has a dropdown menu labeled 'and' with 'and' selected, followed by a dropdown menu labeled 'Music incipit via on-screen keyboard (with transpo:' with 'Music incipit via on-screen keyboard (with transpo:' selected, and a greyed-out text input field. At the bottom right of the form are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons.

1. Enter the siglum for the institution in the field **Library siglum**
2. Enter the exact shelfmark in the field **Shelfmark** ...

Insider tricks: Collections

Home Previous searches My lists deutsch english

RISM Répertoire International des Sources Musicales

[Advanced search](#)

Print Send Save Atom feed

Your search request: **Library siglum = I-Ria AND Shelfmark = Mss. Vess. 463 a-l**

Narrow results 13 result(s) « < 1 2 > »

Select titles: all none Sort by: max. results/page:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1.		Collection 12 Keyboard pieces - pf 4hands; Manuscript, I-Ria Mss. Vess. 463 a-l
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.		Anonymus Sonatas - A major, pf 4hands; Manuscript, I-Ria Mss. Vess. 463a
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.		Anonymus Romanze des Mädchens - E major, pf 4hands; Manuscript, I-Ria Mss. Vess. 463b
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.		Anonymus Potterarie - A minor, pf 4hands; Manuscript, I-Ria Mss. Vess. 463c
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.		Anonymus Sonatas - G major, pf 4hands; Manuscript, I-Ria Mss. Vess. 463d
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.		Anonymus Romanze des Jünglings - F major, pf 4hands; Manuscript, I-Ria Mss. Vess. 463e

▼ Genre
Sonatas (8)
Character pieces (1)
Dances (1)
Keyboard pieces (1)
Marches (1)

▼ Composer
Anonymus (12)
Collection (1)

▼ Source type
Manuscript (13)

▼ Scoring
pf 4hands (13)

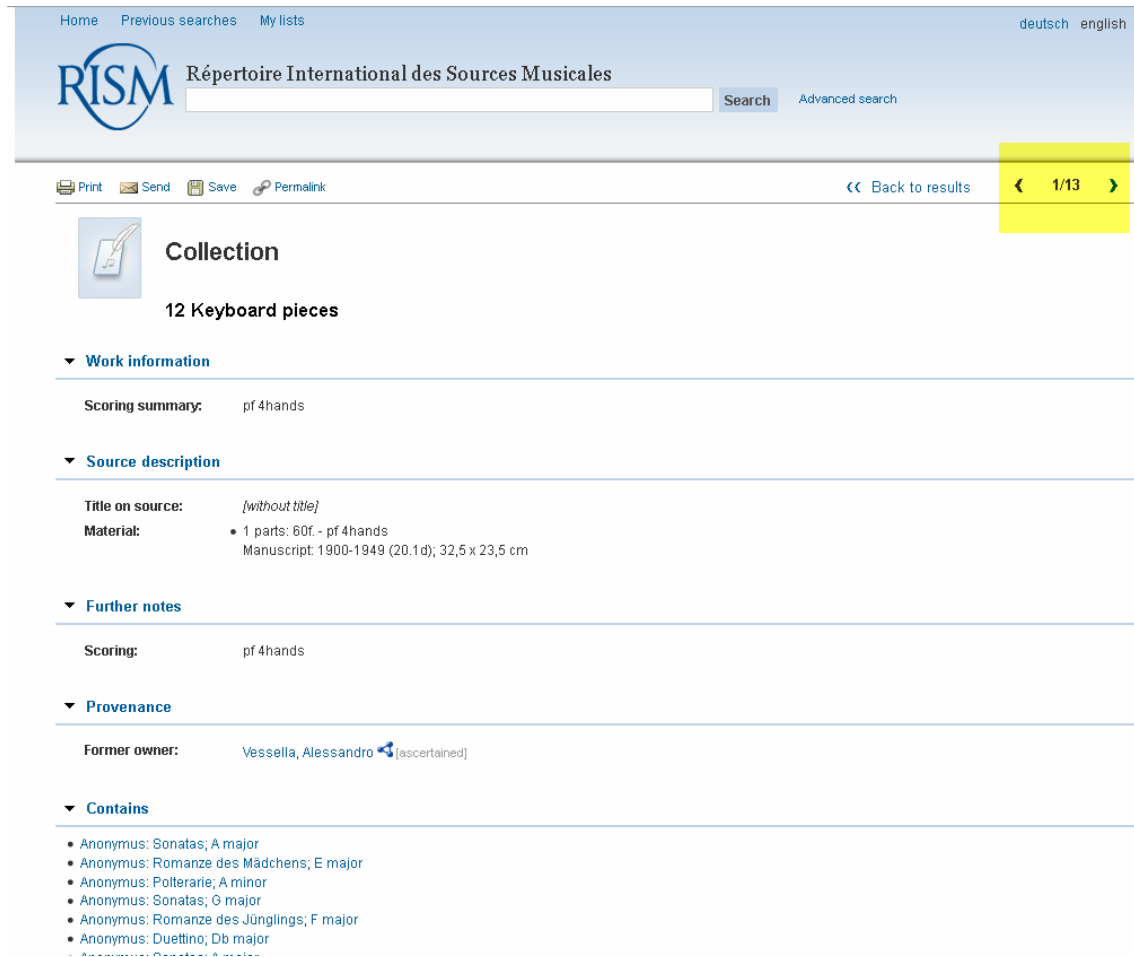
▼ Year
≤1911 (13)
1912 - 1923 (13)
1924 - 1935 (13)
≥1936 (13)

▼ Library siglum
I-Ria (13)

▼ Series
All (13)

...The first result is your collection main entry. Click on it...

Insider tricks: Collections




Home Previous searches My lists deutsch english

RISM Répertoire International des Sources Musicales

Search Advanced search

Print Send Save Permalink << Back to results < 1/13 >

 **Collection**
12 Keyboard pieces

▼ **Work information**

Scoring summary: pf 4hands

▼ **Source description**

Title on source: *[without title]*

Material:

- 1 parts: 60f. - pf 4hands
Manuscript: 1900-1949 (20.1d); 32,5 x 23,5 cm

▼ **Further notes**

Scoring: pf 4hands

▼ **Provenance**

Former owner: [Vessella, Alessandro](#) [ascertained]

▼ **Contains**

- Anonymus: Sonatas; A major
- Anonymus: Romanze des Mädchens; E major
- Anonymus: Polterarie; A minor
- Anonymus: Sonatas; G major
- Anonymus: Romanze des Jünglings; F major
- Anonymus: Duetтино; Db major
- Anonymus: Sonatas; A major

...and use the forward/backward arrows to page through.

Insider tricks: The Fifth Field

Home Previous searches My lists deutsch english

RISM Répertoire International des Sources Musicales

Key	▼	D		
and	▼	Genre	▼	quartets (instr.)
and	▼	Composer	▼	Haydn
and	▼	Music incipit via on-screen keyboard (with transpo:	▼	
and	▼		▼	


▼ **Limit search**

- 1. Key = D AND Subject (Heading) = quartets (instr.) AND Author name = Haydn
- 2. Key = D AND Author name = Haydn
- 3. Author name = Haydn
- 4. Library siglum = I-Ria AND Shelfmark = Mss. Vess. 463 a-l

This field appears after your first search and includes all of your searches from your current session...

Insider tricks: The Fifth Field

[Home](#) [Previous searches](#) [My lists](#) [deutsch](#) [english](#)

 Répertoire International des Sources Musicales

All fields

and Library siglum |-*

and Composer

and Music incipit via on-screen keyboard (with transpo:

and 1. Key = D AND Subject (Heading) = quartets (instr.) AND Author name = Haydn

Select any of them to repeat a previous search, or combine a previous search with a new field. It's like adding additional search fields.

Here, we're searching for (fifth field:) Haydn quartets in D that are (new field:) located in Italy.

Common mistakes

- Not searching for liturgical festivals in form given in *Liber Usualis*
- Not using RISM abbreviations for instruments
- Searching for institutions by city or country name instead of by siglum

Suggestions from users

- Improve ability to print/save/send
- Longer session times
- Ability to search for people according to different functions (dedicatees, previous owners, performers, authors of texts)
- Fewer abbreviations
- Direct link to advanced search ([here](#))

Keep up with RISM news



- Check out our page [RISM for Libraries](#)
- OPAC [help page](#)
- News is posted on the [RISM website](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or watch our tutorials on [YouTube](#)

Test yourself!

- You have an anonymous manuscript that begins like this. Who is it by?



- How many sources in the catalog are located in Mexico?
- How many sources are there for Easter?

Answers

- Music incipit: This was an anonymous piece located at Bibliomediateca dell'Accademia nazionale di S. Cecilia, which one of our RISM contributors was able to identify through an incipit search as being by Mozart. (RISM ID no. [850040514](#))
- Sources in Mexico? As of June 2016, there are 557. Do an Advanced Search and select the field **Library siglum**. Enter **MEX-***. (Use the [siglum database](#) if you don't know that MEX is our abbreviation for Mexico. See the [City Guide](#) tutorial for more information about searching sources in a particular country, city, or institution.)
- How many sources for Easter? As of June 2016, there are 2,606. Do an Advanced Search and select the field **Liturgical festival**. Enter **Pascha**. "Pascha" is the form found in the *Liber usualis*. Another aid is looking up the holiday you want in Wikipedia and then looking on the left-hand side for the Latin version of the article.

Contact

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