

Living Song Project

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What is The Living Song Project?

- The Living Song Project (LSP) is an online catalog of scores arranged by living US American composers.
- With a core research team comprised of Dr. Elizabeth Avery (*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, FSU College of Music*), Dr. Quinn Patrick Ankrum (*Professor of Voice, CCM*), and Dr. Natalie Sherer (*Assistant Professor of Vocal Coaching & Collaborative Artist, FSU College of Music*), it consists primarily of art songs for voice and piano, as well as vocal chamber music with piano and/or other instruments.
- Because there is so much information to collect and maintain, there are naturally gaps in the available data. Some composers are not as well-recognized, so less information about them is available to search, reference, and add to their artist profiles on the LSP database.
- LSP fills these gaps by directly working with library resources nationwide and obtaining scores to expand available information in the database.
- The ultimate goal in developing LSP is to provide a centralized resource for musicians (with a specific aim towards singers and pianists). Expanding on such an elaborate, detailed resource means that locating contemporary songs will become much more accessible than before.

Methods

- Efforts to work through the project were measured by how many scores were successfully obtained to enable this research and how much data was logged into both the LSP and a master Excel spreadsheet containing all song titles to be added into the database.
- Our primary source of searching and locating necessary song scores was FSU's own Warren D. Allen Music Library. However, in January of 2026, we expanded to referencing the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music library as well.
- The master Excel spreadsheet was organized by song ID corresponding to a hyperlink on the official LSP website, score title, composer, availability in the libraries, note ranges, song text, and voice types.
- If a score was not in the libraries, the availability would be marked as "No," and all other information would be left blank. If yes, the score would be checked out, and all of the information in the score itself would be copyedited both into the spreadsheet and into LSP.
- This process was repeated for every available score, which I chose to work through in numerical order by song ID.

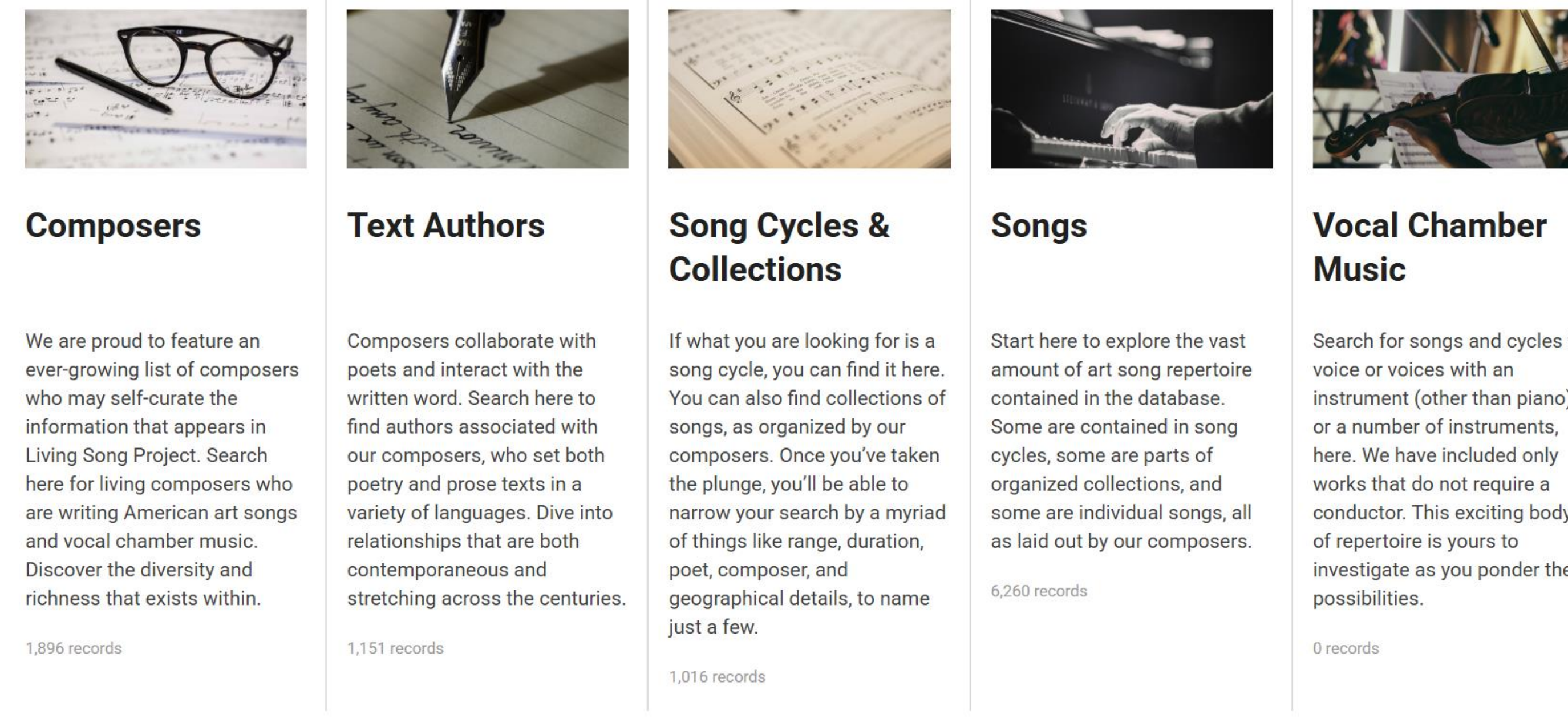


Figure A. A screenshot from the homepage of the Living Song Project, showcasing a directory for various tabs within the site.

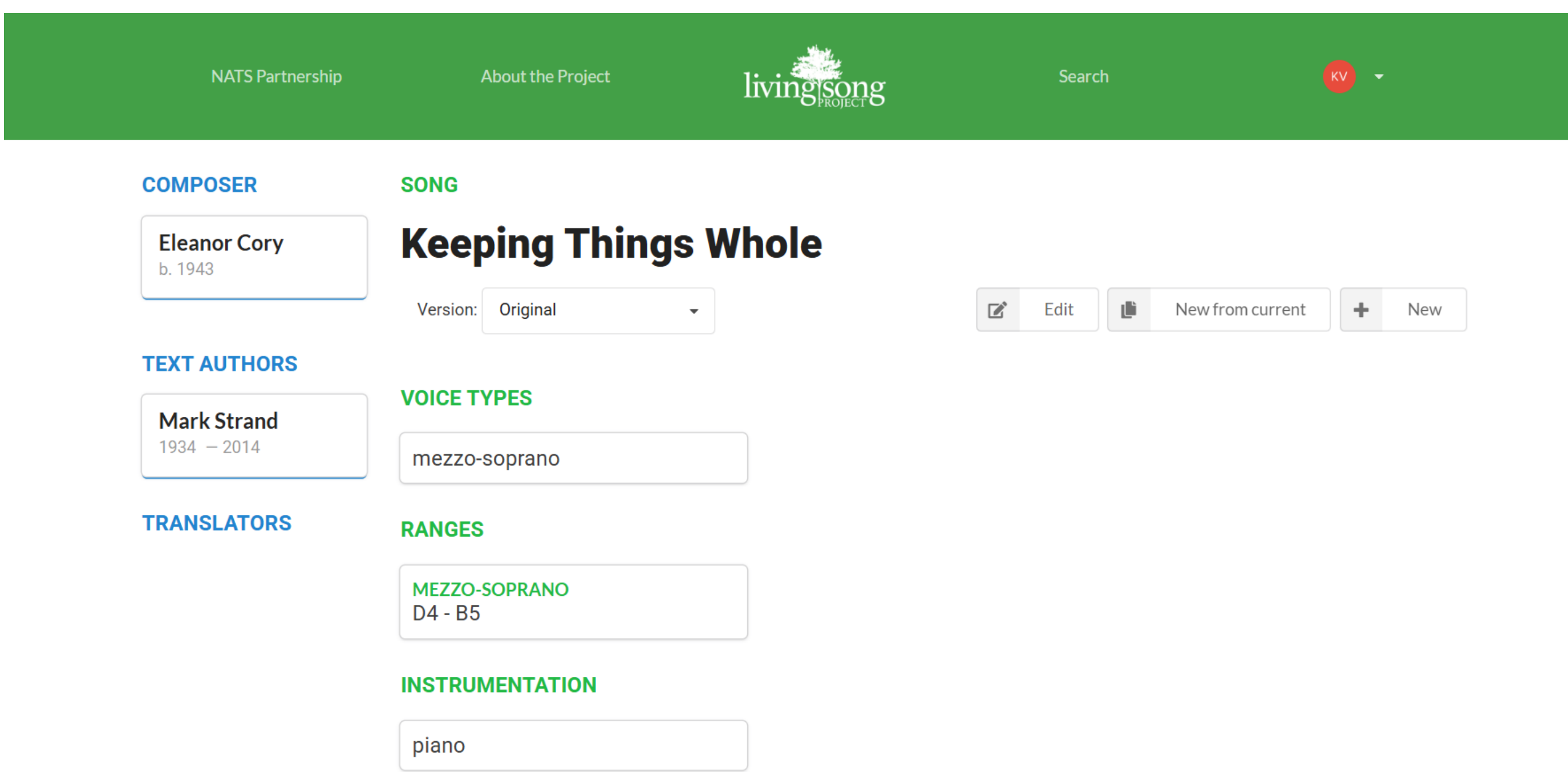


Figure B. A screenshot of a completed song profile, "Keeping Things Whole" by Eleanor Cory.

Song ID	Composer	Song Title	Library	Call Number	Disposition	Text	Note
1	Eleanor Cory	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
2	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
3	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
4	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
5	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
6	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
7	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
8	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
9	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
10	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
11	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
12	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
13	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
14	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
15	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
16	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
17	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
18	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
19	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
20	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
21	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
22	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
23	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
24	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
25	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
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40	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
41	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
42	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
43	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
44	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
45	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
46	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
47	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
48	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
49	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered
50	David Avery	Song of Thrace	Y	Required to be pulled from Allen: M821.637.0101	CS (voice) - D4 - C4S		Previously entered

Figure C. A screenshot of the master Excel spreadsheet containing all of the song data to add to the LSP database.



References
Scanning this QR code will lead to a Word document with my references cited.

Results

- Since the beginning of the UROP period, LSP has expanded by a total of 90 completed song profiles. This number is still expanding, as research is ongoing.
- Results show that many contemporary composers' scores are spread across multiple collections and are not always easy to locate in one place.
- The results also suggest that many of these composers' songs are not part of the traditional canon
- The LSP helps improve access by bringing information together in a centralized, searchable database.

Final Discussion & Looking Ahead: What's in Store for LSP?

- The primary objective of assisting this project was to search for any missing song profiles not already recorded in LSP. The master Excel spreadsheet contained over 6,000 titles, so full completion was not attainable within one school year.
- Limitations throughout the research process showcase that many modern composers' scores are hard to obtain, but LSP combats that by providing much smoother access for navigating extensive material in composers' catalogues.
- Future implications and expansion may involve composers' music being performed across concerts, recitals, and other events.
- Results suggest that future research might benefit from expanding and collaborating with even more libraries and other archival sources beyond that.

Acknowledgement

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