



Women in Electronic Music

Materials related to “Women in Electronic Music” in the collections of the Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University

Compiled by: Tiffany Minton, March 2020

Understanding This Research Guide

What is Electronic Music?

Electronic music includes compositions made using electronic, digital or circuitry-based instruments and technologies. Some electronic sounds may be produced using electronics themselves (e.g. tape reply keyboards, synthesizers, samplers, and theremins) or technologies that manipulate acoustic sounds using signal processing (e.g. audio effects like reverb, echo and stereo imaging). Circuit bending is a technique used to manipulate electronics using short-circuiting techniques in order to create new, unusual or non-native electronic sounds.

Why does researching women in Electronic Music matter?

A 2019 [report](#) titled, “Inclusion in the Recording Studio?” by Stacy L. Smith Ph.D at the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, found that between 2012-2018, women’s representation in the music industry decreased significantly. Using quantitative and qualitative analysis, Smith’s study surveyed the gender and race (or ethnicity) of artists and producers who created 700 of the most popular songs on the Billboard Hot 100 year-end charts between 2012-2018. The report studied gender across this seven year span, tracing Grammy nominations in categories for *Record of the Year*, *Album of the Year*, *Song of the Year*, *Producer of the Year*, and *Best New Artist*. The investigation also examined the barriers female songwriters and producers face using qualitative interviews with the creators.

Across this seven year span, 21.7% of artists were female, 2017 showing the starkest decrease at 16.8 %. Small changes were observed in the percentage of women

working as artists in 2018 at 17%. From 2012 to 2018, women were most likely to appear on the charts as individual performers (31.5 % of all artists) rather than in duos (4.6 % of all artists) or in bands (7.5 % of all artists). In this same time, artists from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups represented half of 2019's artists; people of color represented 44% of the over 1,400 artists included in the study. By comparison, this demonstrates that the music industry is much better at inclusion when considering issues of race and ethnicity, rather than gender.

Dr. Smith's research demonstrates that stories about marginalized people and groups can reveal new questions and opportunities for understanding. These marginalized stories reveal larger truths about whose histories get told or silenced and why; as well as what the implications of telling and silence might have on the historical record. Attempting to understand the effects of these inclusions or absences can help us better understand the complicated and varied truths about individuals, ourselves and our collective experiences, either currently or in the past and deepen our personal or shared memories.

What can this "Women in Electronic Music" research guide do for me?

This guide demonstrates just a few of the innumerable ways history, and the study of music more generally, might be understood by framing women's experiences as musicians, producers, songwriters, and creatives in electronic music within your research. Types of primary and secondary sources include: sheet music, rare books, performance documents, sound recordings, video recordings, manuscript collections, and trade magazines.

The guide is formatted as a bibliography (Chicago style, 17th ed.) and divided into broad categories: ***General Knowledge; The Beginning and Early Years; Freestyle/Miami/Latin EDM, Women as Creators and Co-creators; Electronic Music Musicians, Producers, Fans, and Critics; and Important Cultural Figures: Related Sub-Topics.***

Each category includes examples of primary and secondary source material housed at the CPM that could be used to frame one of these aspects of electronic music culture in recent or earlier popular music history. For example, The Lisa A. Lewis Video Collection could be read against the digitized videos from the [Youth Empowerment Through Arts & Humanities \(YEAH\) Collection](#) to understand more about the nuanced history of girls and women as electronic music creators.

Additional research materials have been included at the end of the guide (***Other Databases and Online Repositories; Syllabi & Other Academic Resources***).

These are just a few examples of ways primary and secondary documents at the Center for Popular Music can be sourced to encourage deeper, critical and creative insights about women's experiences in various related histories. What the sources say is up to you, the researcher, to determine and argue.

What will you uncover in our library and archive that interests you?

What will these sources say about music, history or the culture and society we live in today that hasn't been said before or could be said differently?

“How do I search for primary source materials in your archive?”

Online Searching:

Most of these primary source materials may be searched online through the Center’s website. Sound recordings may be searched in the Center’s Reading Room through the in-house database.

To search for these materials online, visit the [CPM’s website](#). This catalog will search for materials in the following collection categories: **Manuscript Collections, Rare Books and Scores; Sheet Music; Song Broad sides; Posters, Playbills, and Programs; Trade Catalogs; Photographs; and Periodicals: Secondary Collection.**

For an overview of each of the major collections, see the detailed menu to the left of the screen under “**Search Our Collections.**”



You should search for individual titles, artists or songs in **Quick Search** or **Advanced Search**. If you do not have any specific names in mind, you should first examine secondary source materials. Searching for terms like “electronic,” or “women in music,” or by genres like “dance” or “disco” will yield long lists of items that may or may not directly correlate to the topics.

Click on the [Advanced Search link](#) to take you to a more detailed search screen. You may limit your search to a particular field or type of material.

The screenshot shows the Tennessee State University website's search interface for the Center for Popular Music. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Future Students', 'Current Students', 'MTSU Alumni', and 'Faculty and Staff'. The main navigation bar lists 'ABOUT MTSU', 'ADMISSIONS', 'ACADEMICS', 'CAMPUS LIFE', 'RESEARCH', 'INTERNATIONAL MTSU', 'ATHLETICS', and 'CONTACT'. The search interface features a search box with a 'Go' button and a 'View Selections (0 items)' link. The page also includes sections for 'About Our Collections', 'General Search Tips', and 'Search Tips'.

At the Center (in-house searching only):

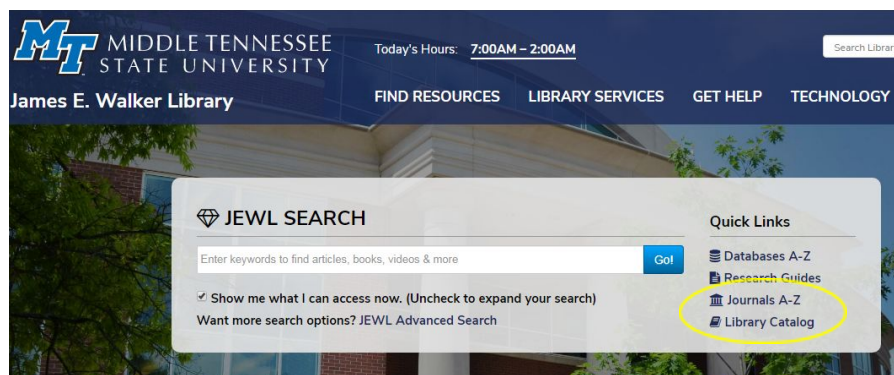
To search for Sound Recordings, please visit the Center and use our in-house database or email **Rachel Morris** Rachel.Morris@mtsu.edu or **Martin Fisher** Martin.Fisher@mtsu.edu.

Some photographic and manuscript materials will also require staff assistance to locate. Please contact **Rachel Morris** with questions.

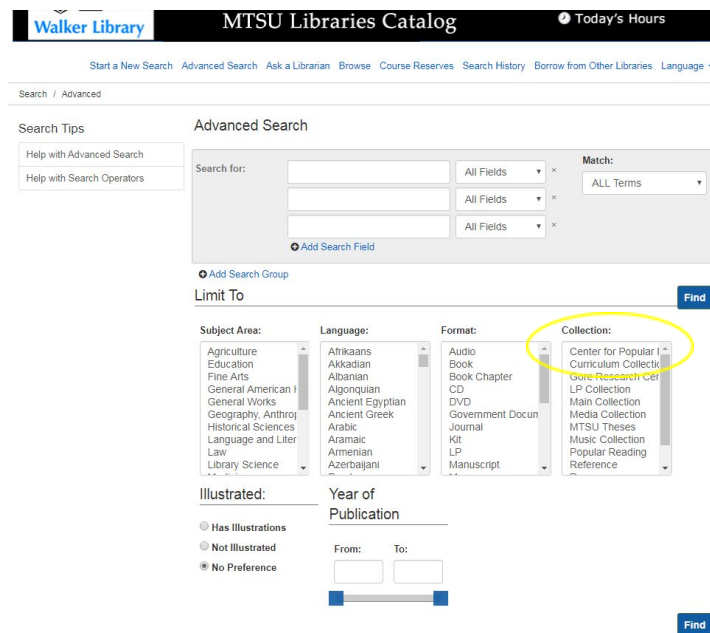
“What secondary source materials do you have?”

To search for Secondary Source Materials available in the Center’s Reading Room– go to MTSU’s [Walker Library catalog](#) and use search terms like “Electronic music,” “Gender in music” or “Bush, Kate.” If you need additional ideas for related search terms, Indiana University has provided a key based on the categories issued by The Library of Congress, [here](#). You may also search for individual artists or genres. Materials include histories, song books and video.

If you are only interested in materials held at the CPM, click on “Library Catalog” at the bottom of the Search box.



Then select “Center for Popular Music (Mass Comm.)” under the “Collection” menu.



Special Topics in “Women in Dance Music” Bibliography

Electronic Dance Music Culture: General Knowledge

Primary Sources

Video

[Lisa A. Lewis research videos collection](#)

Holmberg, Eric., Steven Gregory, and Garland Hunt. *All Rapped Up an Inside Look At the Rap/dance Music Scene / a Production of Reel to Real Ministries*. Gainesville, FL: Reel to Real Ministries, 1991. | Call Number: ML 3531 .A44 1991 or VID ALL RAPPED UP

Sound Recordings

Sylvester. *Sylvester's Greatest Hits: Nonstop Dance Party*. Berkeley, Calif.: Fantasy, 1983. | Call Number: FANTASY RECORDS -- MPF-4519

Manuscript Collections

[Lisa A. Lewis Papers](#) (see: “Series II: Research resources”)

[Press Kit Collection](#) (see: “Chaka Khan, Cher, Club Nouveau, Depeche Mode, Enya, Erasure, Joy Division, Madonna, New Order, Peter Gabriel, and Donna Summer” et al)

Secondary Sources

Books

Gaston-Bird, Leslie. *Women in Audio*. New York: Routledge, 2020. | Call Number: TA 365 .G67 2020

The Beginning and Early Years

Secondary Sources

Books

Kirn, Peter. *The Evolution of Electronic Dance Music*. Milwaukee, Wis.: Backbeat Books, 2011. | Call Number: ML3540.5.E962011

Warner, Daniel. *Live Wires: A History of Electronic Music*. London: Reaktion Books Ltd, 2017. | Call Number: ML1380.W372017

Freestyle/Miami/Latin EDM

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings

Lisa Lisa. *Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam With Full Force / Lisa Lisa: Lisa Lisa*. New York, N.Y.: Columbia, 1985. | Call Number: COLUMBIA -- BFC 40135

Starr, Brenda K. *Brenda K. Starr / Brenda Starr: Brenda Starr*. Universal City, CA: MCA Records, 1987. | Call Number: MCA RECORDS -- MCA-42088

Starr, Brenda K. *I Want Your Love*. [New York]: Mirage, 1985. | Call Number: MIRAGE RECORDS -- 90284-1

Trade Catalogs

Sanchez, David. "Freestyle File." *Dance Music Authority*, Vol. 1, Iss. 7, July, 1993, 20, 28.

Scott, Michael A. "Reviews: Shannon, Shannon (Mirage LP 90134)." *Dance Music Authority*, Vol. 7, Iss. 3, Feb. 18, 1984, 6.

Shepherd, Stephanie. "Florida: Radio." *Dance Music Report*, Vol. 8, Iss. 14, Aug. 9, 1985, 3-6.

"'No Name' Photo of Nayobe in Beethoven Studios." *Dance Music Report*, Vol 7, Iss. 25, Dec. 29, 1985, 20.

Women as Creators and Co-creators and related subtopics: electronic music musicians, producers, fans, and critics

Primary Sources

Song Books

Great Women of Rock: All Songs in This Book Recorded And/or Written By Women.
New York, N.Y.: Warner Bros. Publications, 1984. | Call Number: M 1977 .W64 G7
1984

Manuscript Collections

[Lisa A. Lewis Papers](#) (see: “Series II: Research resources”)

[Press Kit Collection](#) (see: “Madonna, New Order, and Donna Summer” et al)

[Youth Empowerment Through Arts & Humanities \(YEAH\) Collection](#) (see:
“Administrative Records – Digital files, DVD-R, CD-R (Box 4)”)

[Women In American Musical Life Symposium](#)

Video

[Lisa A. Lewis Research Videos Collection](#)

Secondary Sources

Books

Evans, Liz. *Women, Sex and Rock'n'roll : In Their Own Words.* London: Pandora, 1994.
| Call Number: ML 82 .R6 W653 1994

Important Cultural Figures: related sub topics

Laurie Anderson

Secondary Sources

Books

Goldberg, Rose Lee and Laurie Anderson. *Laurie Anderson*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2000. | Call Number: ML420.A59L32000

Björk

Primary Sources

Audio

Sugarcubes. *Life's Too Good*. Los Angeles: Elektra, 1988. | Call Number: ELEKTRA -- 60801-1

Performance Documents

Glastonbury Festival Fleadh Phoenix Festival Womad T in the Park Feile [program Book], 1994. | Call Number: PERFORM-000414 - Perform Box No. 7

Books

Björk. *Björk: A Project By Björk*. 1st U.S. ed. New York: Bloomsbury, 2001. | Call Number: ML420.B599B542001

Secondary Sources

Books

Gittins, Ian. *Björk: There's More to Life Than This: The Stories Behind Every Song*. New York: Thunder's Mouth Press, 2002. | Call Number: ML420.B599G582002

Lysloff, René T. A., and Leslie C. Gay. *Music and Technoculture*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 2003. | Call Number: ML3795.M82732003

- Marsh, Charity and Melissa West, “The Nature/Technology Binary Opposition Dismantled in the Music of Madonna and Björk”

Martin, Bill. *Avant Rock : Experimental Music From the Beatles to Björk*. Chicago: Open Court, 2002. | Call Number: ML3534.M411 2002

Rule, Greg. *Electro Shock! : Groundbreakers of Synth Music / By Greg Rule: Groundbreakers of Synth Music*. San Francisco: Berkeley, CA: Miller Freeman Books, 1999. | Call Number: ML3540.R84E431999

Kate Bush

Primary Sources

Books

Bush, Kate. *Complete*. London: Woodford Green, 1987. | Call Number: M1630.18.B87C61987

Sound Recordings

Bush, Kate. *The Dreaming*. Hollywood, Calif.: EMI America, 1982. | Call Number: EMI America -- ST-17084

Bush, Kate. *Hounds of Love*. Hollywood, Calif.: EMI America, 1985. | Call Number: EMI -- E1-46164

Bush, Kate. *The Kick Inside*. EMI America, 1977. | Call Number: RDE 003573

Bush, Kate. *Never for Ever*. Hollywood: EMI America, 1980. | Call Number: EMI America -- ST-17115

Bush, Kate. *The Sensual World*. New York, N.Y.: Columbia, 1989. | Call Number: COLUMBIA -- OC 44164

Bush, Kate. *The Whole Story*. Hollywood, Calif.: EMI Manhattan, 1986. | Call Number: EMI -- PWAS-17242

Secondary Sources

Books

Juby, Kerry., and Karen Sullivan. *Kate Bush : The Whole Story / Kerry Juby With Karen Sullivan: The Whole Story / Kerry Juby With Karen Sullivan*. London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1988. | Call Number: ML420.B875J821988

Kerton, Paul. *Kate Bush: An Illustrated Biography*. London; New York: Proteus, 1980. | Call Number: ML420.B875K471980

Vermorel, Fred., and Judy Vermorel. *Kate Bush : Biography*. London: Target Books, 1980. | Call Number: ML420.B875V471980

Wendy Carlos

Primary Sources

Trade Catalogs

Freff. "Tuning in to Wendy Carlos." *Electronic Musician*, Vol. 2, No.11, November, 1986, 30.

Sound Recordings

Carlos, Wendy. *Sonic Seasonings*. New York: Columbia, 1972. | Call Number: COLUMBIA -- KG 31234

Carlos, Wendy, Claudio Monteverdi, Domenico Scarlatti, George Frideric Handel, and Johann Sebastian Bach. *The Well-tempered Synthesizer*. Columbia, 1970. | Call Number: COLUMBIA -- MS 7286

Carlos, Wendy. *Wendy Carlos' Digital Moonscapes: An Evolutionary Synthesizer Tour de Force*. New York, N.Y: CBS Masterworks, 1984. | Call Number: CBS MASTERWORKS -- M 39340

Carlos, Wendy, Rachel Elkind, Ludwig van Beethoven, Henry Purcell, and Gioacchino Rossini. *Walter Carlos' Clockwork Orange*. New York: Columbia, 1972. | Call Number: COLUMBIA RECORDS -- KC-31480

Bach, Johann Sebastian, Wendy Carlos, Benjamin Folkman, Bob Moog, and Rachel Elkind. *Switched-on Bach*. New York: Columbia Masterworks, 1968. | Call Number: COLUMBIA -- MS 7194

Gillian Gilbert (New Order)

Secondary Sources

Books

Hook, Peter. *Substance: Inside New Order*. New York, NY: Dey Street, 2017. | Call Number: ML421.N517H662017

Madonna

Primary Sources

Performance Documents

Coulter, John, Herb Ritts, Alberto Tolot, and Lorainne Day. *Madonna: Blond Ambition World Tour*. Los Angeles, CA: Boy Toy/Music Tours, Inc., 1990. | Call Number: SP-095261

Sound Recordings

Madonna. *Erotica*. Germany: Maverick, 1992. | Call Number: MAVERICK -- 9362-45031

Secondary Sources

Books

Andersen, Christopher P. *Madonna, Unauthorized*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991. | Call Number: ML420.M1387A81991

Bego, Mark. *Madonna: Blonde Ambition*. New York: Harmony Books, 1992. | Call Number: ML420.M1387B441992

Bego, Mark. *Madonna!* New York: Pinnacle Books, 1985. | Call Number: ML420.M1387 B431985

- Cahill, Marie. *Madonna*. New York, N.Y.: Gallery Books, 1991. | Call Number: ML420.M1387C341991
- Frank, Lisa, and Paul Smith. *Madonnarama: Essays On Sex and Popular Culture*. Pittsburgh, PA: Cleis Press, 1993. | Call Number: HQ64.M281993
- Greenberg, Keith Elliot. *Madonna*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 1986. | Call Number: ML3930.M26G71986
- King, Norman. *Madonna: The Book*. New York: W. Morrow, 1991. | Call Number: ML420.M1387K51992
- Lagerfeld, Karl. *Madonna, Superstar: Photographs*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1988. | Call Number: ML420.M1387L341988
- Matthews, Gordon. *Madonna*. New York: Wanderer Books, 1985. | Call Number: ML3930.M26M41985
- Morton, Andrew. *Madonna*. 1st U.S. ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2001. | Call Number: ML420.M1387M672001
- O'Brien, Lucy. *Madonna: Like an Icon*. New York: Harper Entertainment, 2007. | Call Number: ML420.M1387O292007
- Riley, Tim. *Madonna Illustrated*. New York: Hyperion, 1992. | Call Number: ML420.M1387R541992
- Schwichtenberg, Cathy. *The Madonna Connection: Representational Politics, Subcultural Identities, and Cultural Theory*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1993. | Call Number: E169.12.M2751993
- Sexton, Adam. *Desperately Seeking Madonna: In Search of the Meaning of the World's Most Famous Woman*. New York: Delta, 1993. | Call Number: ML420.M1387D471993
- Taraborrelli, J. Randy. *Madonna: An Intimate Biography*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001. | Call Number: ML 420.M1387T372001
- Thompson, Douglas. *Madonna Revealed: The Unauthorized Biography*. Secaucus, N.J.: Carol Pub. Group, 1991. | Call Number: ML420.M1387T51991

Turner, Kay. *I Dream of Madonna: Women's Dreams of the Goddess of Pop*. San Francisco: Collins Publishers San Francisco, 1993. | Call Number: ML420.M1387 T91993

Voller, Debbi. *Madonna: The Illustrated Biography*. London: Omnibus, 1990. | Call Number: ML420.M1387V641990

Voller, Debbi. *Madonna: The Style Book*. London: Omnibus, 1992. | Call Number: ML420.M1387V641992

Sylvia Robinson

Secondary Sources

Books

Bradley, Adam., and Andrew DuBois. *The Anthology of Rap*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010. | Call Number: ML3531.A572010

Donna Summer

Primary Sources

Books

Summer, Donna., and Marc Eliot. *Donna Summer : Ordinary Girl: The Journey*. New York: Villard, 2003. | Call Number: ML420.S952 A3 2003

Sound Recordings

Summer, Donna. *Greatest Hits*. Atlantic, 1977. Call Number | Call Number: ATLANTIC -- ATL 50 433

More Archival Resources

Other Databases and Online Repositories:

[Encyclopedia of Popular Music, 4th Ed.](#)

[Internet Archive](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[Open Culture](#)

[Oxford Music Online](#)

[Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#)

[Wendy Carlos \(Official Wendy Carlos Online Information Source\)](#)

[Women's Liberation Music Archive](#)

[Women's Music Archives records and collected music at Smith College](#)

Other General Resources and Recommended Reading:

[Pink Noises: Women On Electronic Music and Sound](#)

Gardner, Joey. [“History of Freestyle Music”](#)(Reproduced with permission of Tommy Boy Music & Timber! Records)

Jamieson, Ali. [Examples of Famous Drum Machines in Music. Zeroes and Ones. The Internet's Finest Free Resource for Music Production and Theory, 2019.](#)