Recent Research on **Subject Here**

Your Name

Your first paragraph will explain your topic and give a summary of what the major issues are. This will be descriptive of the issues rather than your personal interests or experience. This introduction is NOT in The *Reader’s Guide* example. You should keep self-references (words like “I” or “me”) out of this paper. After your introduction give the bibliographic entries for AT LEAST 12 items for the final version. Music history uses the Chicago format style, also referred to as Turabian. You can just hit “return” after the bibliography items and you will automatically get a properly formatted bibliography entry. The formats of other printed bibliographies (including the *Reader’s Guide*) do not always conform to Chicago formats so do not simply copy a printed entry. Other details on formatting musical sources can be found in Holoman’s *Writing about Music: A Style Guide*. Remember that Bibliographies are listed ALPHABETICALLY (from A to Z).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bibl Format. Hanging indent .5 inch. Format automatically adds a blank line before the entry. There is no added line after paragraph.

———. For multiple entries by a single author, after the FIRST entry, replace the name with three “em-dashes” (symbols). There is no added line after paragraph.

Bibl Format. Hanging indent .5 inch. Format automatically adds a blank line before the entry. There is no added line after paragraph.

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You can then proceed to summarize the items in your bibliography. Annotation paragraphs should be about 1/2 a page long, double space. They should summarize the arguments and give the most important evidence that supports those arguments. The comments or annotations on your research should include not only summaries of ideas and arguments, but also other useful aspects of the research such as the use of musical examples, tables, charts, images or other non-prose materials. The annotation should explain the title of the work, especially if the title is trying to be clever or asks a question. It is easier to cut things out of an annotation than to imagine what is not there.

A good bibliography presents a coherent organization of your research, rather than an odd collection. Your organization may be by such things as topics, debates, chronology or some combination of these ideas. You can cite the items in your essay by the author’s last name or a combination of author’s name and short title (if a writer has more than one item in your bibliography). The Reader’s Guide uses ALL CAPITALS for references to authors in the bibliography, but you do not need to do that. A strong annotated bibliography will draw connections between the introductory paragraph and the summaries of each item as well as connections between items.
A “healthy” bibliography has a variety of sources: encyclopedias, journals, books, dissertations, scores, or recordings. You should have about 10-12 items of recent publication so preference should be given to scholarship created in your lifetime. Question the usefulness of any source more than 50 years old. Strong bibliographies draw the reader to connections between the works, explains to the reader how the item clarifies or explains the main topic of the bibliography, and points out to the reader how the item can lead to future work on the topic.

Your final paragraph must suggest how historical research on this topic can go forward based on the work you have done. As you are not writing a full paper on this topic, you must propose what a full paper could like based on what you have learned over the semester or what questions you would ask now that you know all this information. Remember that historians do not only uncover FACTS but their job is to create a clear NARRATIVE on the facts and that my require some SPECULATION. In other words, speculation is NOT bad history—it is exactly what historians do. There are better and worse speculations, but all history involves some sort of going beyond the basic facts to create a clear narrative.