Traditional music, concert music, and religious music are the main focus of the collection. The broad range of compositions, music-making practices and materials conveying musical traditions highlights the richness and diversity of Eastern Europe’s musical culture.

The collection consists of two parts. The core element is the New Music in Eastern Europe Archive established by Oldenburg composer and musicologist Professor Violeta Dinescu in 1996. It includes publications by Romanian musicologists as well as musical scores, recordings and concert programmes all dealing with the music of Southeastern Europe, with a special focus on Romania.

This archive has frequently been used in the composers’ colloquium “Music of Our Time”, which is led by Dinescu and held at the Institute of Music on a regular basis. The materials also play a key role in Dinescu’s symposium ZwischenZeiten (Shifting Times), which has dealt with different aspects of Romanian music history every year since 2006.

The second part of the collection was added in 2010 and comprises the estate of musicologist and journalist Detlef Gojowy, who maintained close contact with composers and musicologists in Eastern Europe during the Cold War. This archive also consists of correspondence, sound recordings, concert programmes and photographs. Teachers and students of musicology frequently use the correspondence to explore topics such as intercultural exchange between Eastern and Western Europe or the challenges of artistic activity in Eastern Europe.

This extensive collection, which has been growing steadily for 25 years, also includes thousands of other musicological publications, sound recordings, programmes, music notations, letters, manuscripts, and photographs which have yet to be catalogued.