

MTNA 2019, Spokane, WA
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SECRETS AND DILEMMAS

From a Music Editor's Desk

We all have our favorite editions. We may choose them based on price, based on layout and ease of reading, based on availability, perhaps based on how faithful they are to the sources, or maybe randomly. But what does it take to prepare a good classical-music edition?

This is of interest not only to editors but also to teachers, students, and performers.

Some questions we need to ask (examples that demonstrate each point will be shown during the presentation):

- What are good sources?
- How does one find them?
- How does one choose, among various good sources, the most reliable one?

Dilemma: *How do we deal with inconsistencies between reliable sources?*

- Is it imperative to follow the best available source to the letter?

Dilemma: *When something just doesn't seem right.*

- Can we be sure that we understand the composer's intentions? Do we know how to read the composer's instructions?

Dilemma: *Terminology and symbols whose meanings have changed over time.*

- How does standardized printing affect our reading of the score?

Dilemma: *Translating old(er) symbols into modern printing.*

Dilemma: *Translating handwriting clues and shorthand into (modern) printing.*