Music Library Association
Annual Business Meeting
Kansas City, Missouri; 5 March 1994

I. Call to order. President Michael Ochs called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

II. Approval of minutes. The minutes of the meeting of 5 February 1993 were approved as distributed.

III. Treasurer's report. Diane Parr Walker, Treasurer, reported on fiscal year 1992/93, which began on 1 July 1992 and ended on 30 June 1993. Total operating budget income for the period was $284,748.16. Operating expenditures were $304,619.38, leaving an operating budget deficit of $19,871.22. The deficit was covered, as budgeted, by the Operating Budget Reserve built during previous years. Supplemental income of $18,573.33 was received in the form of donations, royalties, and interest. Non-operating expenditures were $1,850.00 for awards. The value of MLA's Permanent Fund at year end was $263,883.82, an increase of $44,347.72 from 1 July 1992. Total assets at year end were valued at $365,015.95, an increase of $21,199.83.

Ms. Walker provided a breakdown of Operating Budget income (44% from sales, 32% from dues, 22% from conventions, 2% from Placement Service subscriptions and miscellaneous) and expenditures (44% for publications, 30% for management services, 16% for conventions, 10% for program expenses and other member services). While both income and expenditures have increased over the past seven years, these percentages have not changed appreciably. Over the same period of time, MLA's permanent fund investments have tripled, growing from $100,000.00 in June 1987 to $300,000.00 in September 1993. As a result of fund-raising efforts during the past few years, MLA now has over $36,000.00 in endowment fund principal.

Ms. Walker noted that this is her final conference report as Treasurer, and expressed thanks for the honor and learning experience of serving MLA as Treasurer.

IV. Executive Secretary's report. Richard Griscom, Executive Secretary, reported on the following areas.

A. Election. Valid ballots numbered 514, for a participation rate of 54.7%. Mr. Griscom thanked Karen Little, who assisted as election teller.

B. Publications. One new publication was issued, the index to the 1985-1989 issues of the Music Cataloging Bulletin, compiled by Betsy Gamble. Sales in the monographic series have been flat but are expected to improve with the appearance of several new numbers in the coming months. Looking at all of the publications handled by Academic Services, 344 volumes totalling $6,699.50 were sold during the first seven months of fiscal year 1993/94.

C. Membership. As of 31 January 1994, MLA had 1,102 individual members, 661 institutional members, and 679 non-member subscribers to Notes. The total member/subscriber figure is 2,446, down 28 from January 1993 and down 137 from January 1991. The new Corporate membership category is held by four firms: Garland Publishing, Otto Harrassowitz, W.W. Norton & Co., and Oxford University Press.

D. Membership Handbook. As a result of Notes advertisers' interest and certain fiscal advantages, the 1994 edition of the Membership Handbook will include advertising to defray production costs. Other new features are a smaller trim size, the inclusion in the Administrative Structure of the text of committee charges, and listings of past award winners.

E. Brochures. Brochures on music librarianship and MLA are available from Mr. Griscom.

F. Academic Services. Last June, MLA renewed its contract with Academic Services, MLA's membership and subscription agency, for a three-year period extending through June 1996. Mr. Griscom noted that MLA is served well by Academic Services and its president, James Henderson.

G. Contributions. Approximately 230 contributions to MLA were made between the start of the San Francisco meeting and the beginning of the Kansas City meeting.

V. President's report. Michael Ochs, President, reported on personnel changes that have taken place in MLA's administrative structure since the San Francisco meeting. President Ochs thanked all who have served MLA or are beginning new assignments. Two searches were successfully completed in Kansas City. Elisabeth Rebman will succeed Patricia Fisken as Placement Officer in June, and a new treasurer [later announced to be James P. Cassaro] will succeed Diane Parr Walker in October. President Ochs thanked the Placement Officer Search Committee: Patricia Fisken, Don L. Roberts, and Paula Elliot, chair; and the Treasurer Search Committee: Elizabeth Davis, Richard Griscom, and Victor Cardell, chair.

Among major issues facing the MLA Board in recent years have been long-range and short-term fiscal matters, the proliferation of MLA groups requiring meeting time and space during the annual conference, the decline in institutional subscriptions and memberships, and the ways MLA is or is not serving the needs of its members and the profession. To address such questions, the MLA Board decided that MLA should undertake a new self-study. The last such self-study took place in the mid-1970s. To lead the self-study, President Ochs will appoint a steering committee comprising distinguished members of the association with a broad range of experience.

VI. Other reports.

A. Notes Editor. Daniel Zager reported on staff changes since the San Francisco meeting and highlighted forthcoming articles in the journal.

B. Development Committee. Jane Gottlieb, chair, reported contributions of $2,750.00 to the Vincent H. Duckles Endowment Fund during the Kansas City meeting. This increases the total amount contributed to the fund to $19,893.00. Ms. Gottlieb thanked contributors and the volunteers who staffed the table; she expressed special thanks to Geraldine Ostrove, who was chair of the committee through the San Francisco meeting and set up the mechanism for endowing two of MLA's awards.
Christine Hoffman reported that ninety of one hundred lots were sold during the silent auction and that $1,679.00 was raised.

C. Convention Manager. Ned Quist announced future conference sites. In 1995, MLA will meet in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Ravinia; the site in 1996 will be the Seattle Westin. Pending the satisfactory conclusion of hotel arrangements, MLA will meet in New Orleans in 1997, Boston in 1998, and the Los Angeles area in 1999.

Mr. Quist introduced Joseph Fuchs, incoming Convention Manager.

VII. Remembrances. Colleagues Frank Campbell and Kevin Freeman were remembered by Joseph Boonin and Mimi Tashiro. Kathryn Burnett’s remembrances of Mary Ankudowich were read by Marlene Wong.

VIII. Awards.

A. Awards for publications that appeared in 1992 were made as follows:

1. The Eva Judd O’Meara Award for the best review in Notes: Susan T. Sommer, for her review of Baker’s Biographical Dictionary of Musicians, 8th edition, in Notes 49/1 (September 1992), 67-70. Ms. Sommer was present to accept the award.

2. The Richard S. Hill Award for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature: Danette Cook Adamson and Mimi Tashiro, “Servants, Scholars, and Sleuths: Early Leaders in California Music Librarianship,” Notes 48/3 (March 1992), 806-835. Ms. Tashiro was present to accept the award.


President Ochs thanked the members of the Publications Awards Committee: Lenore Coral, John Roberts, and Pauline Bayne, chair.

B. The Walter Gerboth Award, for an MLA member in the first five years of his or her career as a librarian, was presented to Felicia Piscitelli in support of her project, "A Bibliography of Catholic Hymnals Published in the United States From the Second Vatican Council to the Present (1965-1993)."

President Ochs thanked the Gerboth Award Committee: Joseph Boonin, Geraldine Ostrove, and David Hunter, chair.

IX. Election results. President Ochs introduced the newly-elected board members: Jerry McBride, John Shepard, and Judy Tsou, Members-at-Large; Laura Snyder, Recording Secretary; and Jane Gottlieb, Vice-President/President-Elect. He thanked all candidates who stood for election, and the Nominating Committee: Mary Wallace Davidson, Sherry Vellucci, Dennis Wujcik, and Mimi Tashiro, chair. President Ochs thanked the board members completing terms of office at the close of the Kansas City conference: Victor Cardell, Beth Christensen, and Carol Tatian, Members-at-Large; Nancy Nuzzo, Recording Secretary; and Don L. Roberts, Past-President; and also Diane Parr Walker, who completes her term as Treasurer in October 1994.

An MLA Citation was presented to Susan T. Sommer. The framed citation reads, "In recognition of her multitudinous and continuing contributions as a librarian, educator, author, editor, and organizational luminary, the Music Library Association awards this citation to its past President, Susan T. Sommer, whose inspirational work has energized and informed a generation of her students and colleagues."

X. Announcements.

1. On behalf of the Southeast Chapter and the 1995 Local Arrangements Committee, William Coscarelli invited the MLA membership to the 1995 conference, which will take place 8-12 February in Atlanta. The Southeast Chapter will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1995.

2. Lenore Coral, director of the US RILM Office, thanked MLA for its continuing support of the office. In her role as MLA’s representative to NISO, Ms. Coral reported that the International Standard Music Number standard was published in January, 1994.

3. Stephen Fry reminded the membership that Nicolas Slonimsky would celebrate his 100th birthday on 27 April 1994.


5. President Ochs thanked Kansas City Local Arrangements Committee Chair Susan Hitchens, who in turn thanked the members of the committee: Laura Gayle Green, Chuck Haddix, Gary Mayhood, Mark Rustman, and Anna Sylvester.

6. President Ochs thanked Laura Dankner and the Education Committee, and Bonna Boettcher and the Legislation Committee, for organizing the Continuing Education Workshop on copyright; and thanked Marjorie Hassen and the Oral History Subcommittee for their work on the Oral History Workshop.

7. Also receiving thanks from President Ochs were mentors, first-time attendees, and "chicken performers." President Ochs then provided a historical survey of the circumstances surrounding the creation of the first chicken performing group, the "'All Birds Look Like Chickens to Me' Singers," and Christine Hoffman led an impromptu performance of the chorus from the group’s signature piece.

8. There were 485 registrants for the Kansas City conference, including exhibitors.

XI. New business. There was no new business.

XII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Nuzzo
Recording Secretary