Music Library Association
84th Annual Business Meeting
February 28, 2015
Denver, Colorado

I. Call to Order

President Michael Colby called the meeting to order at 3:46 pm.

Ia. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved.

II. Approval of 2014 Atlanta Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 1, 2014 business meeting were approved.

III. Administrative Officer’s Report Paul Cary

MLA’s operating income for fiscal year 2013-2014 was $473,504, which was 107% of the budgeted amount. An additional $14,320 was transferred from our named funds to underwrite awards and other designated expenses.

MLA’s expenses for 2013-14 totaled $433,803 or 96% of budget. Accounting for the use of named funds, this left us with a surplus of $50,506. We are grateful for the creative efforts of our committees and officers that have expanded our income with new webinar offerings and additional online advertising. The Board voted to use $12,500 dollars for a strategic initiative. The remainder of the surplus has been moved into a holding account at Fidelity to await disposition.

On June 30, 2014, MLA’s investments totaled $1,113,130, an increase of 16% from a year earlier. $855,195 was held at Fidelity, while $257,934 was in socially responsible investments at Calvert. Unrestricted investments, also known as the MLA Fund, contained $761,730, and the remaining $351,399 was in award and other named funds. Donations in fiscal year 2014 (including those given in support of the Atlanta meeting) totaled $24,034.

MLA’s finances and operating systems were audited in August 2014 by SVA, an auditing firm in Madison, Wisconsin. SVA found no uncorrected misstatements in MLA’s finances. A brief statement of MLA’s audited financials is included in the annual report for 2013-14. The annual report and complete audit statements should be available on the web site in the near future.

As of February 4, 2015 MLA’s list of members and subscribers totaled 1,000, compared to 1,083 on the same date in 2014. This represents a decrease of 8%. The decline in membership continues to challenge the Association.

The recent election was open from November 4 until November 25, 2014. Ballots were sent to 562 eligible members, and we received 416 responses for a response rate of 74%, the highest in many years.

MLA’s series co-published with A-R sold units in 2014 for a total income of $ 20,444.50. That should result in income to MLA of about $2,044. Two new titles were published in calendar year 2014, Keeping Time: An Introduction to Archival Best Practices for Music Librarians, by Lisa Hooper and Donald Force,
and *Careers in Music Librarianship III: Reality and Reinvention* by Susannah Cleveland and Joe Clark. Pre-sales for Kathy Abromeit’s *Spirituals: A Multidisciplinary Bibliography for Research and Performance* were strong at the end of 2014.

Our live stream of this meeting had a total of 2,200 visitors with a peak number of 85 simultaneous viewers. The stream was available freely to anyone, and the hi-def versions will be available soon. We owe a debt to Jim Farrington for working with the hotel and Scott Stone for arranging such a great program and the streaming permissions to go with it.

In conclusion, I would like express my gratitude to President Colby for his leadership and everyone on the Board for their support. I’d also like to thank Jim, Katie, Pat, Kris and everyone else at the Business Office for their work on our behalf. It’s been a pleasure working with them, and with all of you in MLA. I know you will be in the very capable hands of Paula Hickner, who has been a great help to me and will do a great job as Administrative Officer.

**IV. President’s Report** Michael Colby

Over all, I think the past year has been a good one for MLA. It hasn’t been without its challenges, but I believe they have been far fewer than our successes, and I hope we have met them with the appropriate care and concern.

I have to talk about money. Distasteful as the topics of income and expenses are to some, I have learned: Most people get involved with an organization like ours because they believe in its mission; they appreciate its programs, publications, and services and want to be a part of the picture. As one gets more deeply involved in the inner workings of an association, the conversation becomes more and more dominated by spreadsheets and dollar signs. This is the world in which we live, like it or not. One thing I can say I do like about the MLA budget in recent years is that we have not been operating at a deficit. We have achieved balanced budgets for the past three years, and we have accomplished this with only one $10 dues increase and without drawing from the MLA Fund. The past decade has seen some far more difficult budgetary years for MLA, so I celebrate this trend of fiscal stability and hope that it continues.

One thing (out of many) that requires funding is technology. MLA has been working diligently in recent years to make better use of current technology. It was only two years ago that (with great trepidation) MLA signed a contract with Your Membership for a web-based community website and membership system. While there is still room for improvement, with the hard work of the Administrative Officer, Web Manager and Web Committee, we have made great strides in constructing a web presence for MLA where one can join, renew, donate, register, look at job openings, learn about copyright, read advocacy statements, and even chat with other members, should one wish to. We are also moving forward with creating work spaces for committees within the web site, with the goal of supporting and presenting the work of all of MLA under the same virtual roof.

MLA has been working with ALA Editions, the publishing arm of ALA, on more than one project. We anticipate renewing our contract with ALA Editions to present webinars. The first three webinars were incredibly successful according to all reports. I would like to thank the presenters: Kevin Kishimoto, Tracey Snyder, Nancy Lorimer, Damien Iseminger, and Casey Mullin. On a less successful note, we still await publication of the fourth edition of *A Basic Music Library*. Obviously, this publishing partnership
has not progressed as either party anticipated it would. Nonetheless, we continue to work with ALA Editions in the hopes that the fourth edition will be published very soon. In the hopes that we have learned something from this experience and the desire to keep BML a vital resource, we have appointed a Task Force to look into the future of BML.

Technology also impacts the convention. I’m sure you’ve noticed the presence of video camera in this room. This is the first time we have streamed content from the convention and we will be very interested in your thoughts and reactions. Look for the post-convention survey in your inbox very soon. We have also changed the way we select the locale for the convention. Working with a convention planning firm, we look to find facilities that can accommodate our needs while keeping costs as low as possible. This means looking at what in the convention business are referred to as “second tier” cities. This also means we have abandoned the tradition of entertaining invitations from the chapters and instead select the city for other reasons. Consequently, in the spirit of fairness, we are working to significantly reduce our dependence on the work of Local Arrangement Committees.

Next year’s meeting in Cincinnati will be the first location selected using this new model. We have also signed a contract with the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida, for February 22-25, 2017.

Speaking of contracts, they have been signed for four new titles in our publication series. I would also like to report the appointment of a new committee which met for the first time here in Denver, the Diversity Committee, chaired by Jonathan Sauceda. I believe the area of diversity is in serious need of more attention by our organization, and I look forward to the actions of this committee. Four roundtables have been renewed: Music Librarianship Educators, Film Music, Sheet Music, and Organ Music.

Since the historic vote on the merge, MLA is the national branch of IAML. I would like to briefly report on some IAML activities from the past year. I represented the U.S. at the meeting last July in Antwerp, where I voted along with almost every other Council Member to abolish the Council. That means IAML will now have a two-tier governance structure, instead of the previous one of three tiers. A new national branch was established for Brazil, the first in Latin America. IAML has also appointed new committees on Membership and Advocacy. A new editor was appointed for Fontes, a name familiar to us all: Jim Cassaro. And, of course, the IAML meeting will be held in the U.S. this year; more on that later.

This is the last Presidential report I will give. Time permitting, I hope to make a few fond parting remarks at the end of this meeting, with the ceremonial passing of the gavel.

President Colby received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his report.

V. Other Reports

A. Convention Manager (Jim Farrington)

The final statistics for the Denver meeting: 407 members registered, 45 first-timers, 51 exhibitors, and 370 Guidebook downloads. Jim thanked the entire staff of Westin Denver Downtown for hosting, the PSAV staff, VCube, and Paul Cary for livestreaming the meeting; Sandy DiMinno from HelmsBriscoe for scouting out the location; Laurie Sampsel and Eric Harbeson for local arrangements; Katie Buehner for designing the conference logo and website; Scott Stone for organizing the program and putting things into Guidebook; Jim Zychowicz and Katie Cummings from the Business Office; Laura Gayle Green,
previous Convention Manager, for advice; and Diane Steinhaus, Assistant Convention Manager, for coordinating the exhibits. The location for the 2016 annual meeting will be the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. Jim invited all to the closing reception after the business meeting.

B. Development Officer (Susannah Cleveland)

Susannah thanked the members for their continued generosity to one another and to the organization. Joe Boonin’s 60th Anniversary Celebration raised $660 for the MLA Fund, and $50 to the Freeman Fund. The initiative to raise funds in honor of Jean Morrow’s retirement resulted in contributions totaling $1,371. The silent auction brought in $970, which will go towards the Bradley Fund. She thanked the volunteers at the auction, and all who donated and bid on the items. As part of an MLA tradition, donations are collected to honor the outgoing president. To that end, $2,125 has been donated to the new Diversity Scholarship and other funds. Susannah thanked Michael Colby, and thanked the members for their contributions.

C. Notes Editor (Jane Gottlieb)

This is Jane’s last report as Notes Editor. She recalled that when Dan Zager, chair of the Notes Editor search committee in 2010 informed her that she was selected as the next Notes Editor, he told her she would find the position to be gratifying. She remarked that she never imagined herself in that role. Jane said that she has found the satisfaction in working with such gifted colleagues who willingly gave their time and expertise. She expressed her deepest gratitude to the team of assistant editors, column editors, and compilers. She thanked everyone who has contributed articles and reviews, or has served as a reviewer. Jane stated that Dan was right, that she found the position as Notes Editor to be extremely rewarding, and that it was a privilege to serve in this role.

D. Archivist (Sandy Rodriguez)

Sandy announced a call for submissions for materials to the MLA Archives, especially to outgoing committee chairs, roundtable coordinators, and officers. She wanted to send a message that to anyone who is producing documentation that reflects the association, submitting the materials to the archives preserves our organization’s legacy. Guidelines for submissions can now be found on the MLA website at http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/default.asp?page=archives. If there are any questions, contact Vin Novara of the University of Maryland, or Sandy.

E. Program Chair (Scott Stone)

Scott thanked everyone who proposed and presented sessions at the Denver meeting. He expressed gratitude to the Program Committee; Paul Cary, Amanda Maple, Kris Shanton, and Rick McRae, who assisted members of the Program Committee with volunteering as chat moderators for the livestreaming sessions; the Web Committee; and gave special thanks to Jim Farrington, Diane Steinhaus, and Jim Zychowicz.
VI. Remembrances

Bill Anderson was remembered by Andy Leach. Grace Fitzgerald was remembered by Mark Scharff. Laurie Lake was remembered by Paul Cary. James Pruett was remembered by Phil Vandermeer. Betsy Walker was remembered by Emily Butler. A moment of silence followed.

VII. Awards Michael Colby

Two awards were not given this year: the Walter Gerboth Award, as there were no applicants, and the Carol June Bradley Award, as the Board suspended granting the award until fundraising allows the Bradley fund to support the award.

A. Freeman Travel Grant

MLA awards the Kevin Freeman Travel Grant to students, recent graduates, or other colleagues who are new to the profession for support to attend the MLA annual meetings. For the 2015 meeting in Denver, the Freeman recipients are Joy Doan, Kyra Folk-Farber, Robin Preiss, and Elizabeth Surles.

B. ARL/MLA Diversity and Inclusion Fellows

The ARL/MLA Diversity and Inclusion Initiative provides financial support to library school students from under-represented groups to pursue the master’s in library and information science degree in music library programs, while also gaining valuable, hands-on experience in a large academic music library environment. This year’s fellows are Dhyana Berry, Victoria Castillo, Treshani Perera, and Zoua Sylvia Yang.

C. Publications Awards


2. The Richard S. Hill Award for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature is presented to Linda Fairtile for her article “Verdi at 200: Recent Scholarship on the Composer and His Works,” published in *Notes*, September 2013.


D. Research Awards

The Dena Epstein Award supports research in archives or libraries internationally on any aspect of American music. This year, the award is given to two recipients: Gabriel Alfieri, doctoral candidate at Boston University, for research on the incident music of Virgil Thompson, Paul Bowles, Marc Blitzstein, and Leonard Bernstein; and Daniel Margolies, Professor of History at Virginia Wesleyan University, for research on Mexican-American conjunto fiddling in Texas.

E. Special Achievement Award
The A. Ralph Papakhian Special Achievement Award recognizes extraordinary service to the profession of music librarianship in a focused time frame or in a focused area. For 2014, the award goes to Jean Morrow. Throughout her career, Jean has been a generous mentor and for twenty years, an engaged teacher of music librarianship at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, where she taught and guided generations of music librarians. Her deeply felt commitment to the betterment of the profession of music librarianship came to full flower in her untiring advocacy for, and subsequent leadership of MLA’s Basic Manual Series. The Basic Manual Series has produced nine titles under Jean’s chief editorship, as she mentored those on her editorial board who helped shepherd authors through to publication. This series has become a mark of MLA’s leadership in the field, fulfilling our mission statement to “promote continuing education and professional development in music librarianship.” Jean stepped down from her role as Chief Editor last year, as she retired after forty years of remarkable service at the New England Conservatory. The Basic Manual Series she so tirelessly and selflessly promoted continues to move MLA and the profession of music librarianship brightly forward into the 21st century.

Michael Rogan read aloud a statement from Jean Morrow, thanking MLA for the award.

F. MLA Citation Award

The MLA Citation Award, the Association’s tribute for lifetime achievement, is awarded in recognition of distinguished service to music librarianship over a career. Citation recipients become Honorary Members of MLA. The MLA Citation for this year is awarded to Jane Gottlieb.

Michael Colby read the text of the award:

For over thirty years, she has promoted the interests of the users of music libraries through publications, advocacy, and tireless work in many roles within the Music Library Association, among them Member-at-Large, Development Officer, Program Chair, President, recipient of the Special Achievement Award for Plan 2001, ALA Representative, Local Arrangements Co-Chair, and Editor of Notes. Within the International Association of Music Libraries she has been active in its professional branches and—as President of IAML’s US Branch—she was an early advocate for the merging of IAML and MLA. As the Vice President for Library and Information Resources at The Juilliard School, she has fostered the development of the Lila Acheson Wallace Library as a major performing arts research collection and has worked with her administration to secure the best possible facilities for the collection’s housing and use. Through her labor and leadership, she has enhanced the prestige of the profession of music librarianship and has come to embody the purposes of this Association. The Music Library Association is pleased to confer upon Jane Gottlieb, the MLA Citation.

Jane thanked the association, and stated that she would like to dedicate all of her future contributions to the MLA Diversity Scholarship Fund.

VIII. Searches and Election Results Michael Colby

Michael Colby announced the new Board Members-at-large: Andrew Justice, Assistant Fiscal Officer; Laura Moody, Assistant Planning and Reports Officer; and Darwin Scott, Assistant Parliamentarian. He expressed gratitude for the work of the outgoing Board members: Fiscal Officer Stephanie Bonjack, Planning and Reports Officer Rick McRae, and Parliamentarian Mike Duffy.
One search was conducted prior to the meeting, and three searches were conducted at Denver, with the following appointments approved by the Board: Publicity & Outreach Officer, Sara Nodine; Notes Editor, Deborah Campana; Advertising Manager, Scott Stone; and Newsletter Editor, Michelle Hahn. The search for the Music Cataloging Bulletin Editor position will be extended through the end of March.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. Announcements

Barbara Dobbs-Mackenzie, Jim Cassaro, Jane Gottlieb, co-chairs for the 2015 IAML/IMS annual congress, made an announcement about the meeting, which will take place in New York at The Juilliard School 21-26 June 2015. The theme for the meeting is “Music Research in the Digital Age.” All current MLA members, even those who are not IAML members, are eligible for a $100 registration discount with a promotional code. A hilarious invitational video was shown.

The Midwest Chapter invited MLA to the 2016 meeting by presenting the Top Ten Reasons to Attend the Annual Meeting in Cincinnati.

XII. Passing the Gavel

Michael Colby expressed his profound thanks for the association’s support throughout his presidency, and voiced his confidence in the new president. Michael Colby passed the official gavel to Michael Rogan.

XIII. Adjournment

New president Michael Rogan adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm.