

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

89th Annual Business Meeting Norfolk, VA March 1, 2020

I. Call to Order

President Susannah Cleveland called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

Ia. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved.

Ib. Land Acknowledgement

President Susannah Cleveland began the business meeting with an acknowledgement of the land on which attendees stood.

According to the Native Land site, the earliest documented inhabitants of this area of Virginia were the Chesapeake or Chesepeian tribe. They became part of the Powhatan Confederacy—sometimes called the Virginia Algonquin—just before 1607 when English settlers arrived in Jamestown. Following many years of violence, the confederacy yielded much of its land to the British in the mid 17th century.

As we work to promote diversity and inclusiveness in our organization and hopefully, by extension, to the other institutions and environments in which we each function, it is important that we recognize the privilege that many of us enjoy. One way of doing this is to recognize how, at the most fundamental level, the land we now occupy was taken, often forcefully and violently, from indigenous people who occupied it before European settlers claimed it as their own. Such an acknowledgement does nothing to repair damage already done, but I hope that our reflection on it will remind us of past inequities and help us all to be more compassionate towards and advocates for people whose paths have been negatively affected by the behavior of many of our ancestors.

II. Approval of St. Louis Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 23rd, 2019 business meeting were approved. Susannah Cleveland thanked Misti Shaw for her excellent minutes.

III. Administrative Officer's Report, Tracey Rudnick

From her report:

MLA's operating income for fiscal year 2018-2019, which ended June 30, 2019, was \$445,553. This exceeded the budgeted amount by 1.2%. An additional \$18,230 was transferred from MLA's named funds to underwrite awards and other designated expenses.

Expenses for fiscal year 2019 came in 3.3% under the budgeted amount and totaled \$448,695. MLA ended the year with a surplus of \$15,088, and it was not necessary to draw from the MLA Fund to supplement the budget.

On June 30, 2019, MLA's investments totaled just over \$1,674,000. About 20% of this is invested in socially responsible funds with Calvert; the remainder is at Fidelity.

Within those investments is the MLA Fund. The purpose of the MLA Fund is to allow MLA to be financially sound and be able to sustain unexpected fiscal losses. More specifically, to quote then-President Jerry McBride back in 2012, "the fund should allow MLA to pay all expenses from an unanticipated catastrophic loss and fund at least one fiscal year of operations so that the association will have enough time to correct fiscal policies and budgets to return MLA to solvency." This suggested the need for a reserve of two times the annual expenses budget.

Some of you remember that the board made painful cuts starting around 2012 that have allowed the board to balance its budgets since fiscal year 2014, and that allowed the MLA Fund to grow. Many of you also made donations to the fund. Last year we quietly surpassed the goal of having an MLA Fund that is now double the annual expenses budget, and the fund stood at just over \$1,046,000 as of June 30. We owe great thanks to Jerry and the Board of that era for making hard decisions that have led to greater security for MLA" If you would like to know more about the MLA Fund, please see President Susannah Cleveland's informative article in MLA's September-October 2019 *MLA Newsletter*.

MLA's audit for fiscal year 2019 took place in the fall. Thanks to the efforts of Pat Wall and Jim Zychowicz at A-R, the books were in order, and the process went smoothly. MLA's auditing Firm, SVA, reported no issues with the books. A full copy of the audited financial statement will be in the MLA Annual Report, which will be available on the MLA website.

As of January 30, 2020, MLA had 615 individual members, 218 institutional members, and 11 corporate patrons and members. Overall membership [844 YTD] is at about 92% of last year's totals. This includes 41 members who used the new

Early Career category. As of January 30, IAML-US membership for 2020 includes 51 individuals and 70 institutions. For those of you who track these things, membership is gradually dropping. MLA is part of a broader trend of a shrinking profession and a drop in membership, but as mentioned, the organization is currently in good fiscal health through planning, other revenue sources, and endowments, and the board closely monitors this.

Our journal, *Notes*, brings in quite a bit of income. In fiscal year 19, after expenses, *Notes* advertising and royalties brought in just over \$79,000, and that's not counting the institutional subscriptions (at \$40,365). The *Music Cataloging Bulletin* earned \$6,440. In 2019, MLA earned \$4,684 in royalties for books published jointly with A-R Editions. This amount reflects 694 total units sold from among 17 titles. Two new titles were published in 2019, and 3 titles are anticipated for 2020.

MLA received \$12,850 in royalties from ALA in fiscal year 2019, with \$4,380 coming from *Basic Music Library* sales and \$8,470 coming from six MLA/ALA webinars or e-courses.

For the *Basic Music Library*, 346 copies of volume 1 (Popular Music) and 214 copies of volume 2 (World Music) have been sold since their publication in 2017 and 2018. In terms of volume 3 (Classical Music), we expect that to be at the printer by mid-July. MLA thanks all of its authors, editors, publishers, advertising managers, instructors, and coordinators for their valuable contributions to MLA's publications.

MLA benefits greatly from the generosity of its members, and in calendar year 2019, donations via the named funds and conference donations, totaled \$23,450. In addition, so far, the Open Access Public Domain Song Anthology fundraising campaign has brought in \$39,800, largely from institutions that are supporting open access initiatives, and a few more donations are expected. Final proofs for the songbook have been sent to the printer. Thanks goes to Open Access editor, Kathleen DeLaurenti, for spearheading those activities. Also, some officers, editors, and members have refused honoraria or declined full reimbursement for travel expenses incurred on behalf of the Association. These gestures are much appreciated.

(This is not an exhaustive accounting. If you want to know more about MLA's finances, go see the Administrative Officer's reports in the board meeting minutes.)

To change topics, MLA held elections for a Vice-President/President-Elect, a Recording Secretary, and three Members-at-Large to serve starting in 2020. Voting was open October 28 through November 15, 2019. 469 ballots were sent to eligible members using Survey Monkey's anonymous ballot capability. 324 responses were received, all valid, for a response rate of 69%, which is comparable to previous years.

It has been a privilege to serve MLA as Administrative Officer this year. I am happy to answer questions about MLA's finances outside of this meeting, or talk with anyone who would like to learn more becoming MLA's Administrative Officer. I'd like to thank MLA's Board of Directors, President Susannah Cleveland, Jim Zychowicz, Pat Wall, and Kathy Koester at A-R Editions, for their collaboration and support, and I'd like to thank my staff and my boss at my institution. Their support makes it possible for me to serve MLA in this role.

Finally, Past Administrative Officer Janelle West rotates off the board at the end of this meeting. We owe our great thanks to Janelle for her outstanding service these past four years. She implemented many improvements, including continued standardization of financial data, and she laid the groundwork for recent votes related to investments. I could not have asked for a better teacher or mentor, and her knowledge, experience, support, generosity of spirit, and fellowship will be missed. Thank you Janelle, and thank you all.

Susannah Cleveland thanked Tracey for all of her hard work.

IV. President's Report, Susannah Cleveland

From her report:

A common theme of a President's first Business Meeting report is how very quickly this first year in office goes. It seems mere weeks ago that we were together in St. Louis, and I thought I was ready to take on this challenge. I sort of was. Our Presidential structure gives a President-elect a year to observe up close the duties of the office, while also enjoying the support and mentorship of a Past President in the first year of their term. I have been incredibly fortunate to spend these first two years in this cycle in the shadow of Mark McKnight, and he has valiantly helped me through all the things for which it turned out I was only sort-of prepared.

In his 2018 Business Meeting address, Mark called the first year of the office, "rewarding, challenging, educational, and fun." I think he hit the nail on the head

with that description and will add that the challenging bits are all much easier thanks to the enormous moral support offered by the Board and the members of MLA, most especially to those of you who have independently offered their support, rarely offered unsolicited advice, and who seem to know the exact moments when a kind word can make all of the difference for a president.

Negotiating and renegotiating contracts have occupied a significant amount of my and the Board's time this year. We have re-negotiated our contract with ALA to continue our jointly sponsored webinars and e-courses. Enormous thanks are due to Sonia Archer-Capuzzo and the Education Committee for their leadership in helping to define the terms of those deals as well as their excellent ongoing work with sharing the content of these webinars and courses with our members and others. We're thrilled to see these programs continue and are pleased to announce that we'll soon be offering blanket subscriptions for the webinars so that those of you who find many of them relevant to your work will have an opportunity to save some money with a batch purchase.

We've also just finalized an agreement with the Society of American Archivists for the publication of *Archival Description of Music Materials, A Supplement to Describing Archives: A Content Standard*. It will be available open access, and SAA will also be making print copies available for purchase, with a discount for MLA members. We're very excited to see this work come to fruition, and we all owe our thanks to the Archives and Special Collections Committee, the MLA Working Group for *Archival Description of Notated Music*, and the working group chairs John Bewley and Elizabeth Surles. This publication represents many years of work and not only provides guidance for our own members but also reinforces MLA's reputation for promoting standards that take the best interests of music users into account.

Meanwhile, we've just finalized the contract for our co-publishing agreement with Aperiio Publishing at the University of Virginia for the *Public Domain Song Anthology*. This is one of the first from-scratch projects in MLA's efforts with open-access publishing, and I'd like to thank Open Access Editor Kathleen De Laurenti as well as the Open Access editorial team of Paul Cary, Morgan Davis, and Matthew Vest, for seeing this complicated project through to completion; print copies should start shipping in mid March. The unusual nature of this project which involved many other people and organizations outside MLA and a crowd-funding campaign, to boot, means it presented several challenges for our Business Office (most especially Jim Zychowicz), our Web Manager, Katie Buehner, and our Administrative Officer, Tracey Rudnick, and I thank them all for

their patience and persistence in working out details with how the logistics of this funding model could be best aligned with our existing practices.

In other publication news, we had two new titles in our series that are co-published with A-R Editions. These include Scott Stone's edited volume, *Outreach for Music Librarians*—number 11 in the Basic Manual Series—and Anna Kijas's *The Life and Music of Teresa Carreño*—number 41 in the Index and Bibliography series. Such publications help raise the profile of MLA, share important knowledge with our profession and the world, and help sustain MLA with royalties from sales. I'd like to thank Scott and Anna as well as the series editors, A-R Editions, the contributors, and anyone else who had a hand in the completion of these two projects.

Over the past few years, we've seen ever-increasing pressures to dive into politics, especially as members call for public statements on various current events. This year, we issued one such statement—to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research after they laid off their entire staff of librarians—and have been exploring options for us to be able to issue such statements quickly and agilely, while also balancing our not-for-profit status with its limitations on lobbying and the desire to represent our membership at large. In the current political climate, we face the same challenge that many Americans face, of trying to identify when a response can genuinely be helpful, when it isn't necessarily helpful but performs a symbolic function and shows that we are paying attention, and when it carries no weight at all. With many of these choices, only history will tell if we made the right one. All of that is to say that the Board and I are looking closely at how and when we should make such statements and we ask for patience as we try to work through this and for support from committees as we try to draft others to help with these efforts.

This year saw the conclusion of the work done by the Task Force on MLA-L. After careful consideration and review of feedback by the members, the Task Force recommended that we:

- move MLA-L under the auspices of the Music Library Association, and assign list moderators; and also
- establish a code of conduct on the list and a means of registering complaints.

The Board voted unanimously to accept these recommendations and have charged the Planning Committee with either creating a new code of conduct or adapting our current code to the environment of MLA-L by the time of our spring

meeting in May. The ownership of MLA-L is effective immediately, and until there is a code of conduct aimed specifically at the listserv, we will be applying the current MLA code of conduct to listserv activities. To that end, please report any concerns you have about violations of the code of conduct on the list from now going forward to me or another member of the Board. For the long-term, we'll likely appoint moderators or ombudspeople. I sincerely thank Mike Duffy and the Task Force for undertaking this difficult and crucial work, and I look forward to a more collegial mailing list in the future.

We've also been working on developing a role of a student or early career member for the Board. This is a pilot project now with the role being a non-voting guest, because additions to the Board require a constitutional amendment, something we're not prepared to do just yet without testing the concept. Look for more on this soon from the Nominating Committee who will be helping to select this person in time for them to join the Board at our spring meeting.

We're very excited to be starting a new strategic planning process this year, and I'm pleased to share with you that the Strategic Planning Task Force, chaired by Holling Smith-Borne, met with me this week to kick off their work. They will be seeking feedback from you throughout this next year, so please make sure they hear your voice, most especially if you have concerns about MLA's direction.

And finally, I'm pleased to announce that as part of an effort to increase MLA's relevance for members and to promote cooperation with sister organizations, we will be holding a joint meeting with the Theatre Library Association next year in Cincinnati. We have already appointed some TLA members to our Program Committee, which will be chaired by Kristina Shanton, and will also reach out to dance librarians to help make this a genuinely collaborative program with resonance for all performing arts librarians.

This has been quite a year, and I very much look forward to the coming year and all of the good work that we can continue to do together. Thank you all for being MLA and for everything you do to make this a welcoming and informed group of professionals.

V. Other Reports

A. Convention Manager, Wendy Sistrunk

Wendy thanked everyone responsible for the smooth running of the conference in Norfolk. She noted that the hotel liaison has been wonderfully helpful and service-oriented. Wendy also expressed appreciation for those who helped with the exhibit hall and furniture placement. She thanked all the A/V staff who assisted with the conference.

She thanked the catering staff, V-Cube, program chair Erin Conor, and Business Office manager Jim Zychowicz. She thanked Susannah and the Board who stepped up to help out when the convention managers felt short-staffed. She thanked Katie Buehner who “became Andrew Justice,” the assistant Convention Manager (who was unable to attend the Norfolk meeting). She heartily thanked the exhibitors who helped to underwrite what can be offered at the conference when it comes to catering, breaks, the reception, etc. Finally, Wendy thanked the various chapters who sponsored breaks, and the big band.

Wendy gave the reminder that a post-conference survey is going to go out, and she hopes that people will be honest and candid with their feedback.

She effusively thanked Assistant Convention Manager Andrew Justice, who was unable to attend Norfolk, but who was in constant communication. He’ll be taking over as Convention Manager as soon as this conference ends.

As Wendy’s tenure comes to an end, she says “old sopranos never die, they just never know how to say goodbye. Thank you very much, I appreciate your time.”

Susannah Cleveland thanked Wendy for her grace and resilience during the week, which has been very impressive.

B. Program Chair, Erin Conor

From her report:

It has been such a delight to collaborate with everyone who made this year’s program possible. I want to thank everyone who submitted proposals for the conference, and thanks also to all the presenters for sharing your research, activities, and experiences.

This was the first year that we opened up our call for papers to those who are not MLA members. We also experimented with new formats for sessions, introducing the first-ever “Community Choice” session, which featured presentations selected by the MLA community. I want to thank the MLA Board for proposing the Community Choice, and for supporting the Committee’s request to open the CFP. So many of our members have such great ideas for ways to maintain the vitality of our annual meetings, and I look forward to those conversations as they continue to develop.

Many thanks to this year’s program committee: Anne Shelley, Joy Doan, Carolyn Dow, Kevin Kishimoto, and Kristina Shanton. I also want to thank Kurt Hanselman for serving as the inaugural MLStEP liaison to the Program

Committee. Please join me in thanking the committee for their work on this year's program.

Thank you very much to our convention managers Wendy Sistrunk and Andrew Justice, for your many emails and conference calls, for being a model of organization, and for helping with my many questions.

Thank you to Web manager Katie Buehner for all of your work to advertise the conference on our website, for your help in wrangling our scheduling software, and (again), for helping with my many questions. Thank you also Ray Heigemeir for graciously agreeing to create a shared notes doc for every single conference session (all 40-something of them!)

Finally, thank you to everyone who was able to attend in person and virtually on the live stream. I hope you found something in the program that motivated, inspired, or challenged you, and I will look forward to seeing you next year at the 90th annual meeting of the Music Library Association.

Upon Erin's closing, Susannah Cleveland added, "it's been a great program; we really appreciate all the work that you all did on the program committee."

C. Notes Editor, Debbie Campana

Debbie Campana shared a list of what *Notes* has published in the past year, including: Ron Broude's article on music reprints; Chris Holden, Keith Knop, and Nara Newcomer's article on music discovery; John R. Davis' work on the DC punk and indie fanzine collection at the University of Maryland; David Hunter's article on Handel manuscripts and the profits of slavery; Anna Kijas' introduction to the life of Teresa Carreño which also opens her volume in the *Index and Bibliography* series; Christopher Herbert's work on the Pennsylvania's Euphrata music community's manuscripts; and Amanda L. Scott's publication on using the National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints as a primary source in music research. Debbie expressed her thanks for the work of all contributors, and encouraged attendees to contribute their work to *Notes*.

Debbie thanked A-R Editions and especially the work of Jim Zychowicz and Pat Wall, along with project managers Lance Ottman and Frannie Lyons. Debbie also thanked peer-review volunteers for their (invisible) efforts.

Debbie noted progress in the areas of copyright transfer agreements (authors may post PDFs or published versions of their articles and reviews on institutional repositories), and the e-edition of *Notes*, which is available to members on the MLA website. Yet, there are goals for *Notes* that remain, which include the improvement of pushing out

new content, and the reorganization and refinement of *Notes* informational pages on the MLA website.

The rest of Debbie's address is as follows:

I extend heart-felt thanks to *Notes* Staffers who volunteer their time and talent to making *Notes* the journal of record for the Music Library Association: *Associate editors*: Richard Griscom, Anne Shelley, and Scott Stone; *Book review editors*: Patricia Stroh and Manuel Erviti; *Music review editors*: Keith Cochran and Matt Ertz; *New media editor*: Steve Henry; *Music received column editor*: Kathy Abromeit; *Books recently cataloged column editors*: James Procell and Matt Ertz; *Periodicals column editor*: Lindsay Hansen Brown; *Music Price Index column editor*: Paul Cary; *Advertising manager*: Steven Mantz; *Notes Indexer*: Marty Jenkins. Thank you all for being amazing colleagues. I have so enjoyed working with you!

Notes staff members do change from time to time: Manuel Erviti began assisting Patricia Stroh as Book Review Co-Editor when preparations for this Beethoven celebration year activities were requiring evermore time and energy from Patricia. Manuel takes full responsibility for the position with volume 77. Since she came on board, Patricia has been an incredible contributor of book review content. Rock-steady and extremely thoughtful, Patricia stepped into the position several years ago and hit the ground running. Of course we all know Patricia's wonderful work; but I for one will miss her ever graceful yet steely professionalism in sometimes trying situations!

Keith Cochran who has edited the Music Reviews column with dedication since 2013 is also stepping down. Before editing the music reviews column, he served as assistant editor since 2003. I will miss his dry sense of humor which could give pause even when working through perplexing questions relating to the music reviews. I am thankful to be able to fill his position with another wonderful (and seasoned *Notes* staffer), Matt Ertz. Matt, who will continue to work with James Procell in overseeing the Music Received column, has already begun his "apprenticeship" with Keith in gathering reviews. He officially takes sole leadership with volume 77.

And then there is Michael Fling. Typically, it is no surprise when *Notes* staffing changes occur. What we do not expect, however, is the sixteen-year tenure of Michael Fling, who was one of our assistant editors. Yes, I think we looked past the fact that Michael worked with four different editors in one of our most demanding positions because he was extraordinary at it. He would consider

grammar and spelling but also check citations and proofread the articles as well as the music reviews. Perhaps even more noteworthy, Michael has been the keeper of the *Notes* Style Sheet since 2012. Whereas Michael retired from Indiana University's Music Library many years ago, he put his red and blue *Notes* pencils down only at the end of last summer. Thank you, Michael, for your many brilliant and productive years with *Notes*. I am happy to report now that Scott Stone has stepped up to the plate and started swinging for the fences as he assumed the duties of assistant editor. In fact, he and Dick Griscom have already begun scheming about ways to enhance the functionality of the *Notes* Style Sheet given our webpages move to the WordPress platform.

In closing, this is my last *Notes* business meeting report. Until this life event marker we call *Notes* came along, I did not realize just how much could be accomplished and how quickly things can change in 5 years. I have enjoyed my time as *Notes* editor more than I could have imagined, and I have learned so much about music librarianship, musicology, editing, and especially about writing. Most of all, I have enjoyed working with so many wonderful people. I am indebted to MLA for giving me this opportunity. Thank you.

Susannah Cleveland added, "your work has been truly inspiring and we're grateful for it."

D. Web Manager, Katie Buehner

Katie thanked Tracey Snyder, Hermine Vermeij, and Cataloging and Metadata committee (CMC) web editor Josh Henry for their hard work in migrating the CMC website from YM to WordPress. The site is now live and redirects are programmed, and this project has served as an excellent model for the in-progress MLA website migration to WordPress.

Katie noted that the MLA website migration is still in progress. Web committee members have worked diligently to move pages, but there is still much work to be done. Hopefully next year, the Web Manager will unveil the new MLA website in WordPress.

The Board approved an Assistant Web Manager position that will serve in a staggered term, like what is in place for the Assistant Administrative Officer and Administrative Officer. This will make it possible to support the ever-growing web needs of the

organization, both on the main website and on auxiliary websites. The Web Manager will be in charge of the main website, server maintenance, and web development. The Assistant Web Manager will support editors or auxiliary websites, including the chapter sites, CMC site, conference website, and copyright site.

E. Development Officer, Lindsay Brown

From her report:

The silent auction results total \$1224. Thank you to Liza Weisbrod, and to everyone who bid, and everyone who volunteered. Liza is standing by if you did not pick up your winning item! Please pick up items after the meeting.

The Development Committee is working on simplifying the MLA Soloist groupings: 3 levels to be named for gifts ranging from \$1 to \$999. Details are still to be determined, but we have talked about musical terms or former MLA greats. More to come soon on the naming.

We received donations during the conference totaling \$2,627. We raised \$4,927 for the Paraprofessional/Public Librarian Travel Fund (including sizable gifts from SEMLA and Jim Cassaro) and a \$5,500 match from the Board; the challenge was exceeded. We are still taking donations but now we can form a scholarship committee so that someone can receive a PPL award to attend the Cincinnati meeting.

Thank you to past president Mark McKnight! Members donated a total of \$3,215 to celebrate Mark's service to MLA as president; \$300 was earmarked for MLA Fund and rest for PPL Fund. Thank you to those who contributed.

Moving along, some clarification about the Donors' Reception. When you give \$500, you get an invite! If you are a sustaining member, thank you, and you can make up the remaining \$360 throughout the year in small monthly gifts. It is typically held right before the opening reception and is a great time to connect with fellow donors, corporate members and patrons, and members of the Board. You are also invited as a past president, honorary member, or member of the planned giving group.

JPASS is live! Information is online on how MLA members can save 50% as a new perk. Sign up through MLA and receive an annual pass for \$99 instead of \$199 and download up to 120 PDFs per year with unlimited access to 2000 journals. This benefit is designed for members without institutional access to JSTOR. Thank you to Anne Shelley and Mallory Sajewski for helping get that going; stay tuned for more member perks.

Thank you for everyone who has supported our organization through gifts and volunteering. Please contact me if you have ideas for funds or if you have questions or concerns about how donors are acknowledged including on our website. I'm proud to be your development officer.

Susannah Cleveland thanked Lindsay for her excellent fund-raising work.

F. Strategic Planning Task Force, Holling Smith-Borne

Holling expressed that he is excited and looking forward to heading up the Strategic Planning Task Force. He noted that past strategic plans have resulted in some wonderful initiatives and have helped MLA move forward and be relevant to its members. The task force is made up of the following members from a variety of chapters, areas of library work, demographic groups, and professional statuses: Matthew Vest, Erin Conor, Charley Roush, Chuck Peters, Ruthann McTyre, Terry Lewis, and Lisa Shiota.

Holling encourages everyone to freely give input to task force members. Soon, the task force will develop 4-5 main goal areas with 2-3 measurable and actionable annual objectives for the time period of 2021-2030. All goals and objectives will reflect the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. They hope to complete task force work by April 2021.

Holling closed by stating, "The question at the top of our minds is how does our organization create a plan that reflects members desires and ensures MLA will think and act strategically with great clarity around our mission, vision and values? We want to deliver a plan that excites members about the future of our organization and our profession. We want to present strategic challenges that will stretch and grow us professionally to help us continue to accomplish great things."

Susannah thanked the task force members for their willingness to take on this very important work.

VI. Remembrances

Jean Bowen was remembered by George Boziwick. Garrett Bowles was remembered by Marlene Wong. Louise Goldberg was remembered by Dan Zager. Avery Sharp was remembered by Ruthann McTyre. A moment of silence followed each remembrance.

VII. Awards

President Susannah Cleveland states, “Our awards give us the opportunity to support and endorse scholarship that adds value to the work we do and broaden attendance at our meetings. I’d like to ask each award winner who is present to come down front at the end of the Business Meeting so that we can get pictures for the *Newsletter*.”

A. Diversity Scholarship Award

The MLA Diversity Scholarship Award, funded by the membership of MLA, offers candidates from under-represented groups the opportunity to pursue a master’s degree in library and information science (MLIS) with financial support. This year’s Diversity Scholarship winner is Hang Nguyen.

B. Kevin Freeman Travel Grant

The Kevin Freeman Travel Grant is an annual award to support travel and hotel expenses to attend the Music Library Association annual meeting. Recipients must be students, recent graduates, or in the first three years of their careers. This year, there are four recipients: Linda Bagley, Adaliz Cruz, Hang Nguyen, and April James.

C. Lenore F. Coral IAML Travel Grant

The Lenore F. Coral IAML Travel Grant is intended to help support travel and conference fees to attend an annual meeting of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres. The grant, a cash award, is usually offered biennially, in even numbered years, or more frequently at the discretion of the MLA Board of Directors. The recipient of this award has not yet been decided.

D. Walter Gerboth Award

Aimed at someone early in their library career, the Gerboth Award’s purpose is to assist research-in-progress in music or music librarianship.

There were no applicants for the Gerboth Award this year; Susannah encourages those new to the field or new to publishing requirements to review the criteria and consider applying for this research funding in the future.

E. Dena Epstein Award

The Dena Epstein Award supports research in archives or libraries internationally on any aspect of American music. Because of the unusual funding formula for this award, we did not have funds to grant this year, though the fund is healthy.

F. Publication Awards

1. Vincent H. Duckles Award

The Vincent H. Duckles Award honors the best book-length bibliography in music. This year’s Duckles Award is granted to John Gray for *Music of Sub-Saharan Africa: An*

International Bibliography and Resource Guide, part of the Black Music Reference Series published by African Diaspora Press, 2018. About the book, the awards committee noted:

John Gray's *Music of Sub-Saharan Africa* is an in-depth resource and bibliography for the music of Sub-Saharan Africa. Including general works offering broad historical and critical perspectives, covering musical instruments, regional studies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and biographies covering nearly 1,500 musicians, composers, ethnomusicologists, dancers, and others involved with or influenced by Sub-Saharan African music, it can guide and support research of anyone studying or interested in African music, as well as librarians who may catalog or want to acquire reference works regarding Sub-Saharan Africa.

Upon notification that he received the award, Mr. Gray shared the following in response:

Although I settled on becoming a bibliographer many moons ago and have lived with the consequences ever since, I often question whether my work is reaching the audience I intended it for and whether the huge effort that it takes to create these entities is appreciated. An award such as the Duckles is a nice confirmation that it is.

Music of Sub-Saharan Africa builds on the base of information I started accumulating in the mid-1980s and have continued to amass ever since in an attempt to address the glaring lack of comprehensive, well-edited reference sources on the expressive culture of people of Africa descent. Although there has been a flood of new scholarship in this area since I started the number of reference sources, particularly bibliographies, has remained rather paltry, with my efforts standing as a kind of oddity in this new digital age. . . . I believe as strongly now, as I did when I was an undergraduate struggling to find information sources for my senior thesis, that the works I am creating are essential tools for any student, scholar or librarian seeking to understand the rich and infinitely complicated nature of Black music and culture from Africa to the Americas.

It is truly an honor for the MLA to have chosen me as this year's recipient of the Duckles award.

Susannah Cleveland notes that this is the second time we have awarded the Duckles Award to Mr. Gray; the first was for his 2013 publication *Baila! A Bibliographic Guide to Afro-Latin Dance Musics from Mambo to Salsa*. The committee considered carefully whether to grant the award a second time to the same recipient and concluded that the high quality of his work merited a second award.

2. Richard S. Hill Award

The Richard S. Hill Award is an annual award for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature. This year's Hill Award goes to:

Clark, Joe C., Sheridan Stormes, and Jonathan Saucedo. "Format Preferences of Performing Arts Students: A Multi-institution Study." *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 44, no. 5 (2018): 620-626.

Of their work, the Publications Awards Committee says the article:

...reveals important information to consider regarding collection development and acquisitions for today's performing arts librarians. The research design, study, and results clearly demonstrated student preferences among print, audiovisual, streaming, and reference resources, as well as the benefit of considering user preferences and behavior leading to more user-focused collection development and resource acquisition. One noted methodology was the use of focus groups in addition to the surveys, which allowed the researchers to gather in-depth feedback and reception regarding user preferences in a candid nature, allowing for more effective analysis of preferences. Librarians in charge of acquisitions may find this article helpful in guiding future purchases, or provide them with a methodology to gather their own patron input to make sure purchases suit the current needs of patrons.

3. Eva Judd O'Meara Award

The Eva Judd O'Meara Award is an annual award for the best review published in *Notes*. This year's recipient is Edward Komara, for his review of *The Original Blues: The Emergence of the Blues in African American Vaudeville* by Lynn Abbott and Doug Seroff (*Notes* 74, no. 4 (2018): pp. 658-661).

As the Publications Awards Committee noted:

Drawing on his own experience on the subject matter, Komara finds connections and scholarly accomplishments in Abbott and Seroff's four-part scholarly account of the history of Blues music. Komara's strong background and understanding of the Blues provides him the insight and knowledge to describe how the *Original Blues* fits into the remainder of the scholarly series. Komara is a storyteller not only in the way he reviews the contents of the *Original Blues* but also in the way he connects the content to broader scholarship on the Blues. Komara also exposes the reader to a wide range of secondary sources on the performers mentioned in the volume, making this review its own introduction to Blues and African American music in the early twentieth century. Komara ends with suggestions on how the volume and research in Blues could continue beyond

this series. For the reader looking to develop their own interests in Blues music, Komara provides a thorough understanding of the scope of this book in addition to its connection to overall Blues scholarship.

G. MLA Citation

The MLA Citation, 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 the Music Library Association.

President Susannah Cleveland reads:

In a career spanning over three decades, this year's recipient has held several significant positions in MLA, including service as *Newsletter* Editor, Local Arrangements Chair, member-at-large on the Board, Treasurer/Executive Secretary, and President.

While the scope of his service is impressive, it is the manner in which he fulfilled these tasks that calls for recognition. His approach is always one of careful thought, followed by effective action, often exceeding the expectations of the office. His creativity and willingness to take risks, led to significant changes in the Association, including moving the *Newsletter* away from mere reporting to a documentation of MLA's larger goals, establishing the position of the Administrative Officer and Assistant Administrative Officer positions, and widening the reach of MLA by bringing to fruition his idea of a Pan-American IAML meeting in Orlando.

He has championed students and new members while honoring the history and contributions of his predecessors, simultaneously inspiring other members through example and encouragement. His contributions to MLA have strengthened and improved its internal functions and its position in the world of librarianship, and we are a better organization thanks to his involvement.

The Music Library Association is pleased to confer upon Michael Rogan, The MLA Citation.

Michael Rogan gave a brief speech upon receiving the award.

Susannah Cleveland thanked the award committee members for their excellent work in selecting these fine recipients of MLA awards.

VIII. Searches and Election Results Susannah Cleveland

Six searches took place this year, with the following appointments approved by the Board: Kirk-Evan Billet, editor of *Music Cataloging Bulletin*; Jacey Kepich and Sandra Pearson, co-editors of the *MLA Newsletter*; Jon Saucedo, editor of *Notes*; Sylvia Yang, Assistant Convention Manager; and Steve Henry, Web Manager. The Assistant Administrative Officer search is still ongoing. Many thanks go to the chairs of these search committees: Hermine Vermeij, Misti Shaw, Liza Vick, Andrew Justice, Katie Buehner, and Paula Hickner.

Susannah Cleveland announced the new Board members-at-large: Brian McMillan as Assistant Parliamentarian, Casey Mullin as Assistant Fiscal Officer, and Diane Steinhaus, as Assistant Planning and Reports Officer. Misti Shaw serves another term as Recording Secretary, and Liza Vick is Vice President/President-elect. Susannah expressed gratitude for outgoing Board members: Parliamentarian Rachel Fox von Swearingen, Fiscal Officer Beth Iseminger, Planning and Reports Officer Bruce Evans, and Past-President Mark McKnight.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

Winston Barham (University of Virginia) approached the podium to propose a motion to remove all restrictions on remote presentations. His motion was seconded by many people.

Background: At the MLA Board's 2019 spring meeting in Middleton, the Planning committee reviewed the St. Louis post-conference survey and its comments. The Planning committee used data from that post-conference survey to inform a set of recommendations to be forwarded to the Program committee for 2020. The Board voted unanimously that the set of recommendations should be forwarded to the Program committee (chaired by Erin Conor).

From the Middleton minutes, 09.Oi:

The Planning committee hopes that the Program committee can set aside 90 minutes for "Members' Choice" sessions. This 90-minute block would allow a one-hour session for a lightning round, and 30 minutes for a regular session. These two sessions will come from proposals in November, as "late-breaking" opportunities for members with new ideas for sessions. These sessions will be

voted on by MLA members in late fall. People whose proposals were rejected by the Program committee still have the opportunity to submit again for this Members' Choice session. The Planning committee also recommends keeping the quiet room, **and asking distance speakers to pre-record their presentations**. Finally, the Planning committees asks that if possible, limiting to a maximum of two sessions per person.

The Program committee accepted these recommendations, and Erin Conor stated that virtual presenters would be required to pre-record their sessions if they were to take place in the streaming room. Previous to the May 2020 Board vote, both the program committee manual and the convention manager manual outlined that virtual presentations were to be discouraged.

This background summary was prepared by the Recording Secretary after the business meeting concluded, specifically for these minutes; she did not have time to review the background or previous Board minutes during the business meeting when Winston's motion was brought to the floor. Thus, this background summary was not provided to attendees of the Business Meeting.

Discussion followed Winston's motion. Web Manager Katie Buehner discussed an idea for the future of streaming presenters. Her idea is that any person who would like to participate virtually tries to recruit an in-room surrogate to maintain the stream and monitor technical quality. This surrogate could assist when technology fails.

Susannah Cleveland clarified that MLA pays V-Cube to stream our conference, but they work on the outgoing stream. They do not work on incoming streams. Thus, it is not the case that MLA already pays for virtual presenting. Rather, MLA pays for V-Cube to provide streaming access for people to watch the conference.

Past-President Michael Colby spoke next. He explained that he was part of the decision to ask virtual presenters to pre-record sessions (not a Board motion, but the recommendation was put in the Convention Manager manual). He explained it was a quality issue, having witnessed streaming problems, fading audio, freezing video, etc. He added, "So, if there is a way to address the quality of the remote presentation so that perhaps we can revise our policy, it'd be a welcome idea."

Matthew Vest (UCLA) stated that Katie's solution is a good one, and really would expand opportunities for people who can't attend the conference. Yet, he adds that if someone cannot attend due to a disability, it might not be fair to ask them to find their

own in-room surrogate. He then volunteered to assist in that capacity should anyone need it.

Sara Manus (Vanderbilt) suggested that “we can’t keep talking about DEI if we’re not going to find ways to make it happen. We can’t have inclusion without accessibility.”

Lisa Hooper (Tulane) added that removing restrictions on virtual presenters increases access for those who do not have the resources to attend the conference. Everyone should have access to the conference, and therefore we should not focus discussions on attendance barriers that are only related to disability.

Rachel Fox von Swearingen (Syracuse) explained that though she is comfortable with enabling remote presenting, she is concerned about people submitting conference presentation proposals with no intention of attending the conference. She doesn’t necessarily suggest that this action would be wrong, but points out that future policies might need to distinguish between those who experience changes to attendance plans, and those who never intend to attend.

David King (Carnegie, Pittsburgh) stated that Rachel made an excellent point. Yet, the sentiment is in trying to provide accommodation, and he asks that the Board can help solve the technical aspect of problems that may arise in virtual presentations. Ryan Koons (Maryland Folklife Archives) explained that discussions related to conference accessibility are also taking place in the American Musicological Society, the Society for Ethnomusicology, and other professional organizations. He hopes MLA is aware that there are resources available.

Winston concluded discussion by stating that he’d be fine to yield to the Board to set guidelines for remote presenters. But, he reiterated that the current motion does not relate to guidelines; rather, the motion is to remove all restrictions on remote presentations. He then called the question.

There was no vote on calling the question.

The membership voted on the motion to remove all restrictions on remote presentations.

The motion passed.

XI. Announcements

Susannah Cleveland announced that this summer, the IAML conference will take place in Prague. Business meeting attendees then watched a video invitation to IAML 2020, which is on Youtube here: <http://bit.ly/iaml2020>.

Then, Susannah announced that next year, MLA will join the Theatre Library Association to hold a joint meeting in Cincinnati. She shared a video greeting from Francesca Marini, current President of TLA. The dates for next year's meeting are: March 3-7, 2021.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm