MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Although it has been almost six months, this is the first official opportunity I have had to thank everyone who attended our fall meeting. I hope everyone had an enjoyable, productive meeting. Special thanks should go to Linda Blair, and Ann Churukian for their continual hard work, as well as to our colleagues from the New England Chapter. Jerry McBride and Joy Pile did a terrific job with the local arrangements. Jerry, Jim Farrington and Peter Munsted were marvelous to work with and made planning an easy task.

Now Past Chair, Linda Blair deserves special recognition for her work. Besides serving as Newsletter Editor and Chair during the past year, she took several steps to increase membership, and improve the productivity of future officers by compiling an officers handbook. Those of us who succeed her now have more clearly defined duties and a better idea of the time frames in which things are expected to happen.

At the business meeting in Middlebury, there was interest expressed by the membership to develop a directory of music collections and resources in the chapter. In discussing this with colleagues from other chapters who have completed such projects, it has become clear that this project may be best completed by creating a web page for our chapter, and compiling this information there. Therefore the future of the directory project may take a new direction soon. Regardless of the directory project, creation of a web page is a good idea. I will keep everyone updated. Anyone interested in this project should contact me.

I hope the snow has ended for this year, and by the time you read this you are enjoying a beautiful, warm spring!

Phil Ponella
Eastman School of Music

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
October 20, 1995

Linda Blair opened the meeting with a welcome to two new members of the chapter: Jane Subramanian of SUNY/Potsdam, and Judith Frangos, a student at SUNY/Albany.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:
The minutes of the October 15, 1994 business meeting, which appeared in the spring newsletter, were approved. Ann Churukian reported a current total
bank balance of $1235.52. The total number of members with dues paid through 1995/96 was 15, plus two more who had paid at the conference. She encouraged others at the meeting to pay their dues.

Jim Cassaro suggested printing the dues reminder in the newsletter on different colored paper, or putting it in an insert instead of the newsletter proper, to make it stand out better. He thought this might make it easier for people to remember to pay their dues. Lenore Coral asked that there not be anything printed on the back of the dues reminder or the ballot, so that they can be used without losing part of the newsletter. Linda Blair agreed to try incorporating the suggestions. Ann Churukian said that she would mail separate dues renewal notices after the meeting to people who had not yet renewed their membership; this proved very effective last year.

Election results:
Philip Ponella announced that Kevin Michki was elected Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, and Ann Churukian was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Planning for the 1996 meeting:
Linda Blair announced that Suzanne Meyers Sawa had written to say that the Society for Ethnomusicology will be meeting in Toronto in late October 1996, and invited us to consider meeting jointly with them. There was a question among those present as to whether the SEM meeting will be regional or national. The consensus was that if it is regional we should consider a joint meeting, but that it would be inadvisable to try to meet with a group as large as the national SEM. Lenore Coral suggested that it might be nice to host a joint meeting at Vassar College sometime with both NELMA and the Greater New York Chapter. Someone pointed out that if we meet with SEM next year, we will have had three joint meetings in a row, so we might not want to undertake yet another joint meeting right away. However, the idea of a joint meeting with the three chapters at some time in the future met with approval. Linda Blair asked for an alternative site for 1996.

Dues Revisited:
Linda Blair pointed out that we have the highest dues of any chapter. Rick McRae proposed establishing a lower opening rate for new members. Lenore Coral proposed reducing the rate to $10.00 US for regular members and $5.00 US for students. Ann Churukian checked the financial records for the past year and thought that the lower rate would be adequate to cover expenses. The largest expense is for newsletters. We send complimentary newsletters to the newsletter editors of other chapters and various MLA officers. There was a question as to whether all of those free mailings are necessary. Linda Blair and Philip Ponella will raise the question at the editors’ breakfast and the chairs’ breakfast at MLA. The proposal to reduce the dues to $10.00 US for regular members and $5.00 US for students, beginning in 1996/7 was brought to a vote and was passed unanimously.

Membership News:
Efforts to increase membership were discussed. During the past year, Linda Blair wrote a welcoming message and preview of the chapter meeting, and Rick McRae sent it to three electronic lists. There were no responses. Linda Blair also sent a one-page mailing to libraries with music collections, and she sent newsletters to MLA members in our region who are not chapter members. We received two responses to these mailings. Jim Cassaro suggested coupling the membership effort with the project to identify music collections in the region; that project would also identify people. Laura Snyder suggested that we target paraprofessionals. They might be interested in the regional organization, especially since they often can't afford to travel to the national meetings. Philip Ponella will pursue this.

Officers Handbook, Files:
Philip Ponella said that the officers do not have chapter files, and he thought they might be in Albany. Lenore Coral suggested calling Paul Mercer in Albany to find out, and
New York State/Ontario Newsletter

Spring 1996 Page 3

New York State/Ontario Newsletter

asking Paul to send them to the current officers. It was noted that any official archive should be with the MLA archive in Maryland; current officers should keep what they need and send the rest to the archives. Linda Blair announced that the current officers are creating an officers' handbook to make it easier for future officers to know what needs to be done and when. She also mentioned the need to define the duties of the past chair.

Committees:
In an effort to involve more people in the chapter, Linda Blair initiated an effort to create committees for technical services, public services, nominations, and membership. The committees would be involved in making proposals for meeting topics and working on meetings in addition to working on special projects.

Rick McRae offered thanks to Linda Blair for her work as Chair this year, and to Ann Churukian for her past and continuing work as Secretary/Treasurer. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Churukian, Secretary/Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT
July 1, 1995—December 31, 1995
Submitted by Ann Churukian

Balance in U.S. bank account, Dec 31, 1995 ............... $1,179.75
Balance in Canadian bank account, Dec 31, 1995 ............... $116.00

Total cash available Dec 31, 1995 . $1,295.75

1/30/96
N.B. All figures in US Dollars

MAJOR RECON PROJECT COMPLETED AT SUNY POTSDAM

The SUNY Potsdam College Libraries has recently added access via OCLC and the libraries' OPAC to a sizeable number of music scores housed in Crane Music Library. A major retrospective conversion project of 12,000 scores was accomplished during the 1995 calendar year, with the work partially funded by a grant received through the North Country 3R's Council and New York State Education Department. Over 400 original bibliographic records were input into the OCLC database during the process, including a number of records for reproduced manuscript scores of works composed by Crane Emeritus faculty member Arthur Frackenpohl. In addition to access via OCLC, holdings are available through use of the SUNY Potsdam College Libraries' online catalog (entitled BearCat) which is located on the World Wide Web at http://www.crumb.potsdam.edu. To access BearCat once you have arrived at the homepage at this address, choose "Crumb Connections" near the top, then choose "Catalogs" (the first item under the "May we help you?" section.) We would welcome your visiting our site.

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REPORT FROM MIDDLEBURY
October 19-21, 1995

As most of you know, our annual meeting in October was a joint meeting with the England Chapter, hosted by Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT. The sessions were stimulating, and the location was delightful, further enhanced by the splendor of fall foliage. In addition to meetings and presentations, we enjoyed an opening reception and a fine banquet at the rural Breadloaf Campus, which was also the site for our accommodations. We all very much appreciated the fine jobs done by the local arrangements committee, headed by Jerry McBride and Joy Pile, and the Program committees, chaired by Phil Ponella for New York/Ontario and Jim Farrington for NEMLA.

SESSION SUMMARIES

Heart of the Fugue: Interactive Hypertext Teaching Fugal Analysis
Gregory Vitercik, Middlebury College

The first presentation illustrated the vitality of using multimedia technology as a classroom teaching tool. With a Macintosh PowerPC using HyperCard software and built-in compact disc player, Vitercik demonstrated a program he developed that displays a multifaceted analysis of J.S. Bach's fugues from Book 1 of the Well-Tempered Clavier integrating aural and visual representations of the music, along with introductory texts and structural diagrams in varying levels of complexity. Using this, students can study highlighted aspects of structural and harmonic analysis in real time, while listening to the recording. Also included in this program were biographical and historical information and discussion of even vs. mean temperament. Although rather difficult and time-consuming to program, he showed how hypertext stacks such as this can be powerfully effective aids toward musical understanding.
(Summary by Rick McRae)

Computing for Pedagogy and Cognitive Research Applications
Elizabeth Marvin and Alexander Brinkman, Eastman School of Music

Furthering this theme, the second presentation reported on a course, entitled "Computing for Pedagogical and Cognitive Research", offered for the first time at the Eastman School of Music in the spring of 1995. This course taught the basic pedagogical and scientific principles necessary for students to design computer-assisted instruction in music and computer-implemented experiments in music cognition, using the Macintosh-based multimedia authoring tool HyperCard 2.2. The presenters, Alexander R. Brinkman and Elizabeth W. Marvin, faculty members at Eastman, described the curricular context of the course, gave an overview of its organization, and demonstrated a pedagogical method they developed to "use the tools to teach the tools." The entire presentation was implemented on a Macintosh and projected on-screen, which allowed conference participants to see first-hand the experiment on absolute-pitch perception that was designed and run as a part of the course. In addition, about a half-dozen of the students' very impressive final projects for the course were shown, including topics ranging from the music of Bach to Schubert to Cage, as well as music-theoretical tutorials on harmonic dictation and part-writing.
(Summary by Phil Ponella)

Access To Information in a Small Regional Archive
Jennifer Post, Curator
Flanders Ballad Collection

The collection of Helen Hartness Flanders, located in the Vermont Archive of Traditional Music at Middlebury College, includes field recordings of approximately 4,500 songs and tunes from New England (particularly Maine and Vermont) that Flanders collected from 1930 to 1966. There are also typescripts of lyrics, photographs of ballad singers, manuscripts, broadsides and chapbooks, and
almost 4,000 printed books and journals. To enable a wider audience to access the collection, a home page is being currently designed for the WorldWide Web. All the recordings will be loaded as separate sound files, pictures and other materials will be scanned in, with all materials indexed and searchable. The usefulness of the hypermedia capability of the home page was demonstrated by the playing of a recorded ballad, as the transcribed lyrics and a photograph of the singer displayed simultaneously on the screen. Librarians and archivists working with special collections should consider that even though they may primarily be handling traditional materials, they should take advantage of such cutting-edge technology to educate and to broaden their public access.

(Summary by Rick McRae)

THE FUTURE OF MUSIC CATALOGING: Budget cuts, staff reductions and new technologies.

The Friday afternoon session concluded with a panel discussion focusing on the future of music cataloging. The panelists included Joy Pile of Middlebury College, Richard McRae of SUNY Buffalo, Jennifer Bowen of the Sibley Music Library, Eastman School of Music and Margaret Chevian of the Providence Public Library. Participants were asked to comment on the status of cataloging activities in their respective institutions.

Pile emphasized the importance placed on authority control at Middlebury despite the current squeeze on financial resources and the declining emphasis placed on it at other institutions with the availability of keyword searching. Middlebury participates in the NACO Music Project, which Pile views as a benefit to other libraries. She envisions an expanded role for librarians through the cataloging of Internet resources currently possible with the inclusion of the 856 field in the MARC record.

McRae commented on the loss experienced by the Music Library at SUNY Buffalo of a dedicated RLIN line and its impact on cataloging work flow. As a result, use of the bibliographic utility is currently confined to reference and document delivery functions. The Music Library must also contend with a large cataloging arrearage generated through gifts, the increased demand for items lacking full-level bibliographic records, and an on-going retrospective conversion project. McRae is currently a participant in the Internet cataloging project and views Internet connectivity as a requisite feature of catalog prototypes.

Bowen recalled the elimination of two professional positions which had an impact on the staffing level in the Technical Services Dept. While the department was spared from any reduction in personnel, catalog librarians began to assume duties in other areas to compensate for the loss. Bowen stated that it became necessary to establish cataloging priorities as well as to assign paraprofessionals activities once performed exclusively by librarians. Bowen acknowledged a decline in emphasis placed on the knowledge of cataloging and suggested that librarians should reconsider the traditional dichotomy of professional and non-professional work in technical services departments.

Chevian noted the numerous changes necessitated by reductions in staffing levels. She cited the decision in her library to cease cataloging LPs as one motivated by cut-backs. She ended her portion of the discussion with the rhetorical question: In view of the current trend toward elimination of cataloging positions, how will music cataloging be learned?

The discussion concluded with a spirited Q. & A. period which centered on the cost-effectiveness of certain cataloging procedures. Lenore Coral of Cornell University responded to the predicament described by McRae earlier in the discussion by suggesting the retrieval of bibliographic records via FTP. The efficacy of creating authority records for all name headings, even those lacking a cross reference structure, was also debated. Bowen mentioned a recent article by Jennifer Younger in which the author introduced the concept of utility in authority control. Bowen also pointed out that some machines can generate authority
Jim Farrington of Wesleyan University noted that in the wake of cost-cutting libraries have lost sight of cooperative cataloging. He observed that the current practice in some institutions to tape load records only occasionally to OCLC and RLIN would result in unnecessary duplication. It is anticipated, however, that the Core Bibliographic Record will ameliorate this problem.

(Summary by Deborah Herman-Morgan)

JOHN DEWEY MEETS THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE: Current Issues in Library User Education

On Saturday October 21, Dorothy Bognar (University of Connecticut) moderated a panel discussion on bibliographic instruction, John Dewey meets the Starship Enterprise: Current issues in library user education. Drawing on parallels in the words of Dewey and Duckles, she noted that library user education should seek to combine a knowledge of resources with an understanding of learning theory and patron needs. To aid her students, she has articulated a number of attitudes and behaviors which lead to successful research, known as "Bognar's Laws".

They are:

1. Be persistent.
2. Research takes longer than you think.
3. Ask for assistance.
4. Remain flexible.
5. Examine reference books for organization.
6. Explore new resources.
7. Don't believe everything you read in a book.
8. Start assignments early.

Music-Oriented Programs in an Academic Setting

David Ossenkop described the program at SUNY Potsdam’s Crane School for undergraduate music majors. In the past this instruction had occurred in the context of freshman music literature classes and focused on basics of library use and standard reference sources. In the fall of 1995, however, a new course, Introduction to Literature and Theory, was initiated. This new introductory course, required for all freshman, includes the acquisition of library skills as an objective.

The Faculty View

Next, Gary Galo, an audio engineer at SUNY Potsdam, discussed BI from a faculty point of view. He noted that most new students don't know where to begin in research, and don't understand what kind of information is found where. They also have a tendency to believe everything they read (see Bognar's Laws). He stressed the importance of music bibliography in writing papers for upper level electives, and perhaps even more importantly in the development of skills needed for self-education.
Integrating New Technologies

Helen Lewis (University of Connecticut) began her presentation with a "reality check". She noted that by the end of the century, PC’s will already be two generations farther along than they are now. We are already experiencing an information explosion brought about by digitalization, analogous to what must have occurred in Gutenberg's time and we are all coping with feelings of too much to learn in too little time. Fortunately, Lewis notes, collaborative efforts can make things happen more quickly. She discussed the integration of new technologies into BI, calling for a re-engineering or radical redesign of instruction and the use of new metaphors for the organization of information. Towards these ends, the University of Connecticut Library offers a series of electronic workshops and also sponsors a popular Technology Fair, designed to introduce users to the newest services available. Library guides are another important part of user education, and these are available on a web site as well as in the library.

Role and Methods of Evaluation

Finally, Phil Ponella (Eastman School of Music) spoke on methods of evaluation for bibliographic instruction. Looking to the literature for advice on evaluation may be problematic, as studies are often done by large research libraries and their findings may not generalize well to other types of libraries. It also appears clear that many (or perhaps most) institutions do not formally evaluate their programs. Nevertheless, the literature does suggest a number of methods which should be suitable for most types of libraries. These include recording anecdotes and observations, administering simple surveys, testing participants after instruction, and studying journals or transaction logs. (Summary by Linda Blair)

CALL FOR PAPERS/PROGRAM IDEAS

Kevin Michki, Chair-Elect

Though it is still far off, it's time to start thinking about program ideas for our fall chapter meeting. This year we will meet at Cornell on October 5-6 for a combined meeting with the regional AMS chapter.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the meeting, know of someone who might be willing to give a paper, or have any interesting suggestions for program ideas, you can contact me on e-mail at michki@fredonia.edu. You may also reach me at the library: (716) 673-3117 (phone) or (716) 673-3185 (fax). Those of you who would like to present a paper and know the topic already, please send me a brief one or two paragraph abstract of your proposal. All proposals, ideas and other suggestions should reach me no later than September 1, so there is adequate time to coordinate our part of the program with the AMS people.

This should be a very interesting and lively meeting! I'm looking forward to hearing from many of you with your ideas, and to seeing all of you in October in Cornell.

SUBSCRIBE TO NYSO-L

NYSO-L is our discussion list, available to members or other interested persons with access to electronic mail. To subscribe:

1. Send an e-mail message to LISTSERV@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU (bitnet: LISTSERV@UBVM)

2. In the body of the message, type:
   SUB NYSO-L JANE DOE

3. You will receive notification that you have been added to the list.
NEWS OF CHAPTER MEMBERS

A number of chapter members from Eastman's Sibley Library were busy at the annual MLA meeting in Seattle, February 7-10. On Wednesday, Ted Honea presented a full-day, preconference Music Conservation Workshop. At the Technical Services Roundtable session on Thursday, Jennifer Bowen spoke on Trends in descriptive cataloging: Cooperation and relationships. On Friday, at the open session of the Legislation Committee, Mary Wallace Davidson presented The NII Fair Use Conference: An overview and on Saturday morning, she took the floor again, co-chairing with consultant George Soete the MLA Town Meeting, sponsored by the MLA Self-Study Steering Committee. Later that day, at the open meeting of the Personnel Subcommittee, Linda Blair spoke on Support staff upgrades: methods of job analysis.

Congratulations to Laura Snyder (Eastman School of Music) who has been re-elected Recording Secretary of MLA, and also to Jennifer Bowen, who has recently been elected to the Executive Council of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging. In addition, she has been appointed to MOUG's Naco Music Project Advisory Committee.

Congratulations to Kevin Michki (SUNY Fredonia) and his wife Renee on the birth of their second son, Elliott William, weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces. He arrived on March 13th, at 12:43 AM.

Rick McRae (SUNY Buffalo) recently had an article published as a special issue of a journal. The complete citation follows:


Our best wishes to Deborah Herman-Morgan, formerly Cataloger for Eastman Recording Arts and Services and Ensembles Library who has been named Head of Cataloging for the Allen Library of the Hartt School in Hartford, CT in April.

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ATTENTION MEMBERS OF MLA CHAPTERS

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INSIDE:

Message from the Chair ....................................................... 1
Minutes of the Business Meeting ............................................. 1
Recon Project at SUNY Potsdam ................................................ 3
Report from Middlebury: Session Summaries ................................ 4–6
Call for Papers ........................................................................ 6
News of Chapter Members ....................................................... 8

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