2006 Fall Meeting set for Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The New York State/Ontario Chapter of the Music Library Association will meet this October at one of North America’s largest and most vibrant cities: Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

More information will be forthcoming as the conference dates approach, but please keep the weekend of Friday, October 13 - Saturday, October 14, 2006 open as our meeting dates.

Our host will be NYS/O Chair-Elect Suzanne Meyers Sawa, from the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto. The U of T music library is (according to their website) “the largest music research collection in Canada, with over 250,000 scores, periodicals and books, 20,000 microform items, a Rare Books and Special Collections Room, and access to an extensive range of networked electronic resources, and 180,000 sound recordings, from cylinders to DVDs are available in the Sniderman Recordings Archive.”

The library also houses the Olnick Rare Book Room, local collections specializing in sheet music, choral octavos and Canadiana, as well as a large performance collection.

Several past NYS/O meetings have included a performance or group event on the Friday evening. This year, Suzanne is exploring purchasing tickets to an evening production of Toronto’s hottest new musical, The Lord of the Rings – this large-scale production has generated rave criticism (see Time Magazine’s review) and would be an exciting group activity. If you are interested in seeing The Lord of the Rings, please contact Suzanne mailto:s.meyerssawa@utoronto.ca by June 30, 2006.

Toronto is a clean, safe, cosmopolitan city with a wonderful network of parks, recreational, and cultural facilities (above photo shows a view of downtown from Toronto Islands park). The city hosts the third largest English-speaking theatre district in the world, behind New York and London, as well as the largest free-standing structure on Earth: the CN Tower. It is the capital of the province of Ontario and the financial capital of Canada. One of the world's most ethnically diverse cities, it is home to more than 80 ethnic communities from Africa, Asia, and Europe. It is a gourmet and gourmand’s paradise with literally thousands of restaurants catering to every cultural cuisine imaginable.

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As I write these words, springtime is nearly upon us in upstate New York, and around the northeast. Only a few weeks ago, many chapter members made their way south to Memphis, Tennessee, site of the 75th anniversary meeting of the Music Library Association, where the weather was not dissimilar to what we now, finally, are experiencing here.

I have several items to report from the MLA convention. This year we did not opt to meet during the time allotted for chapters to meet. I will admit to a personal bias against Thursday night meetings for anything: when I was Program Chair for the Seattle meeting I moved the system user group meetings from Thursday night to Saturday afternoon to free up an evening for meeting-goers to enjoy a free evening on the town. In that spirit, this year many of us joined with our New England chapter colleagues for a nice long dinner at the nearby Isaac Hayes Nightclub and Restaurant. Perhaps 50 or so attended and enjoyed each other’s company.

Not only did many NYS/O members attend the Memphis meeting, several were featured prominently. At the risk of missing some people, I’ll enumerate at least some of them here. Dan Zager (Eastman School of Music) was a speaker at the Saturday morning plenary session on collection development.

Sarah Canino (Vassar College) spoke at the Small Academic Libraries Roundtable meeting. Alice Carli (Eastman School of Music) chairs the Preservation Committee, which also sponsored this year’s pre-conference workshop. Linda Blair (Eastman School of Music) is serving as MLA’s Fiscal Officer in her position as Member-at-Large on the Board of Directors, and Bonna Boettcher (Cornell University) is now the President of MLA. Rick McRae (University of Buffalo) and yours truly were found every night with the MLA Big Band, who once again played for the gathered MLA horde at the Saturday evening happy hour. Rebecca McCallum (Eastman School of Music) received an MLA travel grant to attend the meeting. And of course Gerry Szymanski (Eastman School of Music) was ubiquitous with his digital camera, snapping the pictures that you find in this issue of the Newsletter. (My apologies if I left out anyone’s contributions to the national meeting!)

One of my duties as Chapter Chair was to attend the Chapter Officers Breakfast, where we discuss over coffee (well, not much as it ran out!) and light pastries the various goings on of our chapters, new initiatives, and so forth. We also heard from various MLA officers about chapters and their interaction with the parent organization. One of the most poignant missives came from MLA’s Development Committee Chair, Allie Goudy. She made an impassioned plea for chapters to consider contributing to MLA’s various funds and activities. The NYS/O Chapter Board discussed this proposal, and to that end came up with the subject of the article found elsewhere in this issue, challenging the Chapter to come up with a donation in memory of our three recently deceased icons: Jim Coover, Ruth Watanabe, and Lenore Coral. You will read about the details there, but let me just state here that I think it should be a matter of chapter and individual pride that we recognize our fallen colleagues in this manner. I am sure you will agree that this is a most fitting tribute.

You will also read in this issue some early news about this fall’s Chapter meeting, which will take place in Toronto. This will be the first time the Chapter has met in Canada in about 15 years, and I am very excited about the kinds of programs and activities Suzanne Meyers Sawa (our Vice-Chair) is planning. I look forward to seeing many of you then!

Jim Farrington
Chair, NYS/O Chapter
Remembering Our Colleagues With Gifts

Within the past year, the New York State/Ontario Chapter of MLA has lost three of its most senior and beloved colleagues: Jim Coover (University of Buffalo), Ruth Watanabe (Eastman School of Music), and Lenore Coral (Cornell University). Their deaths are a profound loss to the profession of music librarianship, and to many of us personally.

While a number of tributes to our friends have taken place, the Board of the NYS/O chapter would like to remember them in a more lasting way. We are announcing a challenge to the chapter membership to raise funds for a gift that would be used to support the various funds of the national organization.

The Board will match dollar for dollar all contributions made in the name of one or all three honorees, up to a total of $500.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a form that you can use to send your checks to our Treasurer, Sandy Lemmon, that allows you to designate whom you wish to honor with your gifts. (If you send funds directly to MLA we will not know about it and thus cannot match those gifts).

The Board feels strongly about the importance of this effort. Everyone agrees that the work of MLA is of vital importance. This particular campaign is a way for the Chapter to show in a visible, very real way just how much these three colleagues meant to each of us, individually and collectively.

If you have any doubts about the importance of supporting MLA, re-read Allie Goudy’s article from the September/October MLA Newsletter, “Why I Give to MLA,” (http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/publications/newsletter/MLANEWS138.html - giving) as a reminder of why giving is so meaningful to all of us. Thank you to all of you who support our chapter and MLA in so many ways. We hope that you will join us in remembering these colleagues through a gift to MLA.
MLA Donation Form

As noted in the accompanying article, the NYS/O Board is challenging the chapter to donate to the Music Library Association on behalf of our three recently-deceased members: Jim Coover, Lenore Coral, and Ruth T. Watanabe. Please use this form and send your contributions no later than September 1, 2006 to:

Sandy Lemmon
NYS/O Treasurer, MLA Fund
Sibley Music Library
27 Gibbs St.
Rochester, NY  14604

All donations will be matched by the Chapter, effectively doubling your individual contribution. However, for us to be able to tally the amounts accurately, you must remit your check, made payable to the NYS/O Chapter of MLA, to Sandy.

Donors wishing to support a particular aspect of MLA’s mission have several development fund options. Contributions to these funds support the designated purpose either immediately or through growth of a designated investment. Donors can indicate that they prefer a socially-responsible investment vehicle for contributions that are invested.

- **The MLA Fund**
  Contributions to the MLA Fund insure financial security for the Association and support programmatic activities of the Association.

- **The Vincent H. Duckles Fund**
  supports MLA’s annual publications awards: The Vincent H. Duckles Award for the best book-length bibliography or music reference work; the Richard S. Hill Award for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature; and the Eva Judd O’Meara Award for the best review published in *Notes*.

- **The Dena Epstein Fund**
  established by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Mort Epstein, provides grants for archival and library research in American music.

- **The Kevin Freeman Fund**
  supports first-time attendance at a national meeting for an MLA member who has been a music librarian for no more than three years, a graduate library school student aspiring to become a music librarian, or a recent graduate (within one year of a degree) seeking a professional position.

- **The Walter Gerboth Fund**
  offers an annual grants in support of research in progress to a music librarian in the first five years of his or her career.

- **The Michael Ochs Endowment Fund for Notes**
  Michael Ochs established this fund in 2002 to create an endowment that would help assure the continuation of MLA’s journal. In its first two years, the fund received enough contributions from Association members to double in value.

- **US-RILM Office Endowment Fund**
  supports MLA’s contribution to the operations of the US-RILM Office.

- I prefer a socially responsible investment vehicle.
Fall 2005 NYS/O – NEMLA Meeting, Vassar College

The joint meeting of the New York State/Ontario and New England chapters of the Music Library Association took place on Friday, October 21st and Saturday, October 22nd, at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Attendees met in the fourth floor Thekla Hall in the Skinner Hall Building.
Attendees were welcomed to the conference by Music Librarian Sarah Canino, Sabrina Pape, Director of the Vassar College Libraries, and Michael Pisani, Chair of the Music Department at Vassar.

Ned Quist (Brown University), Chair of the New England Chapter of the MLA.

Nancy Nuzzo (Univeristy at Buffalo) was the first speaker, highlighting Aaron Copland’s tenure as lecturer at SUNY Buffalo and the Music Library’s Copland holdings.
Richard Wilson, a composer and professor, spoke about his personal interactions with Aaron Copland including letters and visits to Copland’s New York apartment.

Dr. Wilson is Mary Conover Mellon Chair in Music at Vassar; he is also Composer-in-Residence with the American Symphony Orchestra, for which he gives pre-concert talks.
Sarah Canino informed us about the man behind the Vassar College Music Library, and his role in its construction and collection development.

Ann Churukian introduced attendees to the unique and arcane Dickinson Classification system for arranging music scores.

The Dickinson Classification system is used at Vassar College and at the University of Buffalo Baird Hall Music Library, where it was introduced by James Coover and Carole Bradley, who left Vassar to start the UB collection.
Contra-dancing!

Micky Koth (Yale University) led the NEMLA/NYS/O All-Star Contra Dance Band and Bill Fischer called the steps.
Alan Karass (Holy Cross) opened Saturday morning’s session with “That Rings a Bell...: An Overview and Assessment of the Sound Healing Literature.”

Gerry Szymanski (Sibley Library) ended the presentation portion of the meeting with “Agincourt: A Battle, A Carol, and Shakespeare's Henry V”

NYS/O Chapter Meeting
Nancy genuflects before the card catalog of the George Sherman Dickinson Music Library
A luncheon feast at Alumnae House was capped by a moving tribute to the late Lenore Coral of Cornell University by past national MLA president James Cassaro (University of Pittsburgh). Attendees shared their personal and professional memories of Lenore and remembered her accomplishments and great gifts to music librarianship.
New York State/Ontario Chapter, Music Library Association
Financial Report
October 1, 2005 – May 26, 2006

Balance in the U.S. bank account on September 30, 2005 $1,113.71

INCOME
Membership dues $155.00
Proceeds from 2005 Fall meeting $  57.16

Total Income $212.16

EXPENSES
None

Total Expenses $0.00

Balance in the U.S. bank account on May 26, 2006 $1,325.87
Balance in the Canadian bank account on September 14, 2005 $303.77

Total cash available on May 26, 2006 $1,629.64

*Note – all figures are in U.S. dollars

Historic instruments from the Sherman Dickinson Library at Vassar College
Call for Nominations

One office will be open for nomination this year:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

If you know of someone whom you would like to nominate, or if you are interested in this position, please e-mail Dale Vargason at dvargason@esm.rochester.edu with nominations. Later in September, or early October, ballots will be mailed, and hopefully we will have the election results by the Fall meeting.

Chapter Officers

Chair (through October 2006)
Jim Farrington
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Eastman School of Music
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- You will receive notification that you have been added to the list.

Questions about NYSO-L may be addressed to:
Rick McRae, Music Library, University at Buffalo mcrae@acsu.buffalo.edu (716) 645-2924
2006/2007 Membership Form
MLA New York State/Ontario Chapter

Membership year begins September 1.
Dues are $10.00 US; Students, $5.00 US

Name: ________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________

Home Telephone: ________________________________

Institution: ____________________________________

Office Telephone: ________________________________

Preferred email: ________________________________

Make check or money order in US dollars payable to: NY/Ontario Music Library Association

Send this membership form with check to:

Sandy Lemmon
Head of Acquisitions and Serials
Sibley Music Library
Eastman School of Music
27 Gibbs Street
Rochester, NY 14604
USA
Skinner Hall, home of the Department of Music at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York