March 1989

MLASC EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Enclosure: North-South MLA conference registration form
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Two very good reasons for doing your taxes before the April 17 deadline are APRIL 14 AND APRIL 15. Please join us at the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, for the Spring 1989 Joint Meeting of the Southern and Northern California Chapters of the Music Library Association. April 14 has been declared Nicolas Slonimsky Day at Cal Arts. We will, no doubt, be entertained by Mr. Slonimsky's talk and by presentations on the composer and conductor by those who know him so well. Day Two will be devoted to the theme "American Composers and the Movies," with presentations by David Rakin, Fred Steiner, and Kenneth Rosen. Each day will be capped by dramatic or musical performances by Cal Arts players. Thanks, in advance, are in order to Jeannie Pool and Leslie Andersen, my Program Committee members, for their efforts and enthusiasm to date.

Looking beyond to 1991, Marsha Berman has volunteered (and I quickly accepted) to serve as Chair of the MLASC's Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee. She has contacted those of us who indicated a willingness to bring about a grand 50th Chapter birthday bash. Please give her a call at the Music Library, UCLA, with your ideas for 1991. Thanks very much, Marsha! You have received ballots for the Spring '89 elections in the mail. The slate is excellent! Please make some difficult choices and vote for your 1989/90 Chapter officers. Thanks to all of you who agreed to serve if elected. The Executive Board really appreciates your willingness to run for office.

I'll see you all on April 14 and 15 at Cal Arts!
PICTURE IT: CLEVELAND 1989
THE MLA CONFERENCE

[Since not all Southern California MLA members had the opportunity to attend the National conference, Susan Sloan of the Arnold Schoenberg Institute graciously offered to provide an overview of the conference highlights]:

The 58th annual Music Library Association conference, held in Cleveland on March 14-18, 1989 was a great success. The pre-conference boasted 192 registrants and the main conference had 450 registrants. Of these 450 registrants, 38, or approximately 8.5% were from California. As usual, the MLA conference covered the veritable Guidonian gamut of topics, from an opening pre-conference on online systems to a closing session on preservation.

The pre-conference workshop, entitled Music in an Online Environment, featured S. Michael Malinconico of the Pratt Institute, Jim Cassaro of Cornell University and Joan Swanekamp of Eastman, among others. Michael spoke in very general terms about different kinds of online systems, OPACS, CD-ROM, and CPACS, what they should do, and how and why they are different. Jim and Joan shared with us some practical advice gleaned from their experience in implementing online catalogs at their respective institutions. Both Jim and Joan advised us to get the music library involved in the implementation process, to make our special needs known from the beginning, to continually converse with colleagues at our own institutions and with other institutions using the same system, to get involved in user groups, and to keep up with vendor developments. Wednesday afternoon was devoted to small group sessions. These small group sessions provided a time for informative exchange of ideas, problems and solutions.
MLA National Conference report, continued

On Thursday morning we were warmly welcomed to the main conference by Marilyn Mason, Director of the Cleveland Public Library, and William A. Moffett, Director of the Oberlin College Libraries. The opening session, entitled Publishing Contemporary Music: Challenge to an Industry under Stress, featured a panel of representatives of three music publishing houses: Dantalian, Inc., Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., and Margun Music and Gunmar Music.

The next session, The Dewey Decimal Classification Phoenix Schedule 780: A New Tool for Classification and Online Retrieval, covered the evolution and development of the 780 schedule and described the specificity and flexibility with which the 780 schedule can be used. Also covered was online subject searching using the 780 classification and ways of integrating collections classed using the 780 schedule into existing collections.

Thursday afternoon held a special treat for us in the form of a trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art. Time was allowed for us to view some of the exhibits at the Museum, after which we attended a session entitled Perspectives on Musical Iconography held in the Museum’s auditorium. The informative session featured Professor Ross Duffin of Case Western Reserve University, Tillman Seebass of Duke University, Kenneth Be of the Cleveland Museum of Art, Terence Ford for the Research Center for Musical Iconography and Barry Brook, representing RIdM. Thursday ended for many of us with a "Welcome to Cleveland" reception in the beautiful Cleveland Music Library.

In Friday morning’s session, Small Fish in Big Ponds: the Art of Managing Administrators, the panelists responded to three fictitious case studies, "Library Budgets," "Automation Planning," and "Problem Gifts." The case studies were at once amusing and horrifying, and the panelists responded in kind with a mixture of humor and sage advice.
MLA National Conference report, continued

The Business Meeting, held late Friday afternoon, brought forth a number of interesting announcements. Christine Olson of the University of Oregon was named the new Publicity Officer, and three new members-at-large were elected. They are Nina Davis-Millis of MIT, Dale Hudson of Florida State University, and Gordon Theil of UCLA. Congratulations Gordon! Marsha Berman of UCLA is an out-going member-at-large and we thank her for her service. The publicity awards were as follows: 1. The Vincent Duckles Award for the best book-length bibliography or reference work: Arthur B. Wenk, *Analyses of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Music, 1940-1985* (MLA Index Series no. 25); 2. The best article-length bibliography or article on music librarianship: Carl Schmidt, *Newly Identified Manuscript Sources for the Music of Jean-Baptiste Lully* (NOTES, vol. 44, no. 1, September 1987); 3. The best review in NOTES: George Perle, for his review of a score of *Lulu* by Alban Berg (NOTES, vol. 32, no. 4, June 1987).

Saturday began with a session entitled *New Connections: Music Libraries in Networks and Consortia*. The message was that music libraries and librarians can tap into networks and online systems originally developed for other clientele and purposes with great success. The participants shared their experiences of forming networks, and their advice to us was to maintain an assertive but civil approach when dealing the the "powers that be," to do something about our own naivete concerning automation, and to keep those lines of communication open.

The final plenary session, held on Saturday afternoon, was entitled *Rescuing Our Collections: Planning a Preservation Program*. The featured speakers were conservation consultant George Martin Cunha, Ted Honea of the Eastman School of Music, and Alice N. Loranth of the Cleveland Public Library.
MLA National Conference report, continued

George Cunha, who is probably the "grand master" in the field of conservation and preservation, spoke on conservation as a function of management. He emphasized preventative measures such as a controlled environment and proper storage, that conservation should be a "continuum of actions by the entire staff every day," and that all should establish conservation and preservation programs suited to the conditions and needs of the collection. A wrap-up session followed during which the conference registrants were given the opportunity to make final comments and ask questions of the conference speakers and panelists.

Susan Sloan
The Arnold Schoenberg Institute

50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY COMING UP!

Our Southern California Chapter of MLA was established in 1941 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1991. In order to plan the appropriate celebratory activities for this grand event, Jack Kranz has appointed a 50th anniversary committee, chaired by Marsha Berman. Many ideas have been proposed for the anniversary, including, thus far, 1) indexing the Pacific Coast Musician, 2) commissioning a musical work, 3) writing a history of the chapter, 4) issuing a revised directory of music collections in Southern California, and 5) a bang-up Anniversary Program. We will discuss the plans in more detail at the forthcoming business meeting on April 14. If you have additional ideas or simply want to work on any of the projects and help make this a memorable occasion, please contact me at 213-399-3674.

Marsha Berman
UCLA Music Library
CALIFORNIA JOB LISTING

Curator, De Bellis Collection of California State University at San Francisco State University

The Brank V. de Bellis Collection is a small library-museum of Italian civilization, ancient and modern, with an emphasis in history, literature, fine arts and music. Holdings of books, periodicals, music scores, sound recordings, manuscripts, microfilms, prints, artifacts, and coins number about 50,000 items. Curator is responsible for bibliographic organization and public programs related to the collection. She/He will catalog rare book and/or scores, supervise one library assistant, work with consultants as needed, offer research assistance, and plan exhibits, concerts, other public programs as time and budget permit. She/he will be a member of the SFSU library faculty and will be expected to meet criteria for retention and tenure.

Salary and Rank: $31,680-$43,896 or $39,960-$55,548, depending on qualifications.

Application: Send letter of application, resume, names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references to Eloise McQuown, Asst. Director for Administrative Services, J. Paul Leonard Library, San Francisco State University, 1630 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132.

Deadline: May 31, 1989

GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION: Articles about music, music librarianship, or other items of interest to local music librarians are welcomed. The editor reserves the right to edit all material. Please include your name, title and institution. To be considered for the Newsletter, articles should be received one month prior to scheduled publication every August, October and March. Please address all articles, news items, and changes of address to: Deborah Smith, Editor MLASCC Newsletter, Occidental College Music Library, 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles, CA 90041 (213) 259-2942.