From the Chair...

Lynn Gullickson
Northwestern University

Greetings! It was good to see so many of you at the national meeting in Los Angeles in March. This year time was set aside for regional MLA Chapters to meet in the evening on Thursday, 18 March. I decided our Chapter might best use this block of time for committee meetings since it is often difficult for Chapter committees to find time in overcrowded schedules to conduct their business. While some committees met, others did not. I would appreciate receiving your feedback on the use of this time by the Chapter at the national meeting.

In the fall it will be time to elect a new Secretary-Treasurer. The Nominating Committee Chair is Therese Zoski Dickman (Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville). Other members of the committee include Paul Cauthen (University of Cincinnati) and Emma Dederick-Colón (Indiana University). If you are interested in running for office or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

The Library School Outreach Project, which is being partially funded by a national MLA Chapter grant, is still in progress. Library school visits involving students from Indiana University, University of Illinois, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee were made in April. Presentations to library school students at Dominican University (River Forest, IL) and University of Iowa will take place later this spring. After the initial phase of the project is finished, a complete report will follow. Newly designed MWMLA membership flyers created by the Membership Committee were distributed to each of the students. Hopefully some of the students will join the Chapter and attend the meeting in Oak Park next October!

The Program and Local Arrangement Committees had a joint meeting in Los Angeles. The chairs of these committees, Laura Probst (University of Minnesota) and Bob Acker (DePaul University) respectively, are working very hard to put together an excellent meeting. If you have specific ideas or suggestions, I know that they would appreciate your input. Be sure you have reserved the meeting dates! 21-23 October at the Carleton Hotel in Oak Park.

Have a great summer!!
Fall Chapter Meeting

Submitted by Bob Acker
DePaul University

Mark your calendars now for October 21-23, the dates for this fall's annual chapter meeting. It will take place in Oak Park, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago. We will be staying at the elegant Carleton Hotel, which is within walking distance of many restaurants and shops in downtown Oak Park.

Oak Park prides itself as being the "home" of two prominent persons: Frank Lloyd Wright and Ernest Hemingway. Wright spent his formative years in Oak Park, leaving behind several examples of his early Prairie School architecture, many within walking distance of the hotel. We hope to arrange a walking tour of the neighborhood for those who are interested. Oak Park is also the birthplace of Ernest Hemingway. The village is fond of quoting his characterization of the town as being occupied by "broad lawns and narrow minds." If anything, the exact opposite is true, and modern Oak Park may be characterized as being progressive, racially mixed, and culturally vibrant.

Access to public transportation and expressways to downtown Chicago is very convenient. The Local Arrangements Committee is planning several tours of downtown Chicago music libraries, including the Harold Washington Center of the Chicago Public Library, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Archives, and the Center for Black Music Research Library of Columbia College. While the program hasn't been finalized, there will be sessions on the Chicago music scene and special music library archives in the Chicago area.

Needless to say, there is a lot of music of all sorts—classical, jazz, blues, pop—going on in Chicago and neighboring suburbs at this time of year. We hope you can join us!
The Music Information Center has been fortunate to acquire several collections which truly merit the term "special." They range in size from a few hundred items to over 30,000, and in format from score to 78 rpm to video to realia. Their subject matter also varies tremendously, though many do focus on Chicago, whether a particular style of music or relating to a particular organization. We have collections pertaining to jazz, blues, gospel, German mänerchor music, dance bands, folk music, opera and vocal music. We have material from the Balaban & Katz movie palaces, the Illinois Entertainer, the Martin & Morris publishing company, the Chicago Blues Festivals, New Music Chicago and the Choral Ensemble of Chicago. While the collections are cataloged, many of them are not yet accessible through the Library's OPAC. We are delighted, therefore, to have the opportunity to bring them to the attention of our colleagues.

Balaban & Katz Theatre Orchestra Collection

The Balaban & Katz chain owned several movie palaces in Chicago including the Regal, Oriental, Chicago and Aragon Theatres. Live shows, some quite elaborate, were presented as well as silent movies and later talkies. Our collection contains 19,000 scores with parts for music for silent films, stock arrangements for dance band, orchestrations of popular classics and 5,000 single song sheets. There are also some scripts for live shows, manuscript arrangements and a few photos. The collection is indexed by title, composer, arranger, lyricist, publisher, place of publication, source (musical, film or B & K production), date, illustration and subject. A typical use of this collection was the reconstruction of the score for the silent film Phantom of the Opera by Lon Chaney's son.

Charles A. Sengstock, Jr. Collection

Named for the donor, a big band and early jazz expert, this collection of 1,200 items focuses on Chicago dance bands. Included are rare non-commercial tapes of remote broadcasts from celebrated venues such as the Blackhawk Restaurant and the Aragon Ballroom, books, photos and commercial recordings. Among the famous orchestras represented are Dick Jurgens, Wayne King and Teddy Lee. The collection is indexed by performer, title, label and venue.

Daniel Nack Vocal Arts Collection

The Nack Collection contains over 1000 operatic and cantorial recordings, several quite rare, on 78 rpm and LP, and includes performers such as Leo Slezak, Mordechay Hershman and Titta Ruffin.

Arnold Jacobsen Recorded Sound Collection

Acquired with a grant, and still being indexed, this audio collection documents the history of American popular music up to 1960. Musical comedy, dance bands and jazz are especially well represented, but there is truly something of everything. The 35,000 78 rpm and LP recordings were collected by Mr. Jacobsen, who has since acquired 40,000 more!

Jubilee Showcase Gospel Music Video Collection

"Music which both Entertains and Inspires" was the premise of this Emmy award-winning television program. Produced in Chicago from 1963-1984, hundreds of local and national gospel performers were featured. Together the 100 extant shows provide a unique visual and audio documentation of gospel music. Donated by the producer, Mr. Sid Ordower, this is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world. The shows are indexed by performer, song title and date.
Martin & Morris Gospel Sheet Music Archives

Martin & Morris was the most important and longest operating publisher and distributor of gospel music in the United States. Located in Chicago, it was founded by Kenneth Morris, prolific arranger and composer and Sallie Martin, performer and composer. The 1,600 titles are indexed comprehensively. The Smithsonian Institution is the only other library with this material and also has Martin & Morris' business papers.

Chicago Blues Archives

 Begun in 1981 with a gift from WXRT, the Archives is one of a handful devoted to blues. Besides an excellent collection of books, magazines and commercial recordings, the Archives also contains videos, posters, photographs, oral history material, papers of the Chicago Blues Festivals, non-commercial recordings and realia. Our largest item is Little Brother Montgomery's piano. For more details, please visit the CBA homepage at www.chipublib.org/001hwlc/vpablues/cba.html.

Yes, our special collections do cover a variety of topics and formats, and this is just a sampling. We feel privileged to have the opportunity and responsibility to collect so broadly. Please don't hesitate to call if you'd like more information about a collection, or want to know if one includes a specific item, or perhaps want to refer a patron. We deal with professional musicians, fans, kids, graduate students, production companies, confused people, researchers — We'd be happy to hear from you!

An Index to African-American Spirituals for the Solo Voice

Compiled by Kathleen A. Abromeit
Foreword by Francois Clemmons
Music Reference Collection, No. 76
(ISSN: 0736-7740)
216 pages
$65.00 (Reference Book)

Spirituals were an intrinsic part of the African-American plantation life and were sung at all important occasions and events. This volume is the first index of African-American spirituals to be published in more than half a century and will be an important research tool for scholars and students of African-American history and music. The first collection of slave songs appeared in 1843, without musical notation, in a series of three articles by a Methodist Church missionary identified simply as "c." Collections that included musical notation began appearing in the 1850s. The earliest book-length collection of spirituals containing both lyrics and music was published in 1867 and entitled Slave Songs of the United States. Not since the 1930s, with the publication of the Index to Negro Spirituals by the Cleveland Public Library, has an index of spirituals been compiled.

The spirituals are neatly organized in four indexes: a title index, first line index, alternate title index and a topical index that includes twenty major categories. A bibliography of indexed sources serves as a guide for further research.

Kathleen A. Abromeit is currently the Conservatory Public Services Librarian at Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio.
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**MLA-Midwest Chapter Meetings**

Carleton Hotel
Oak Park, IL
October 21-23, 1999

Madison, WI
Fall 2000 (dates TBA)

**Midwest Note-Book**

Submission Deadlines

April 15 for the May issue
August 15 for the September issue
December 15 for the January issue

---

**Musical Chairs**

*Midwesterners Accept New Positions*

Holling Borne, Music Librarian, DePauw University.
Sarah Heuertz, Music Cataloger, St. Louis Public Library.
Jennifer Hunt, Assistant Director, Music Library, University of Louisville.
Karen Little, Director, Music Library, University of Louisville.
Michael Moore, Music Cataloger, Northwestern University.
Eunice Schroeder (formerly of Lawrence University), Music Librarian, University of California-Santa Barbara.