Viva Las Vegas!
Site of the 1999 Mountain-Plains Chapter Annual Conference

As Elvis would say, Viva Las Vegas! The University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Libraries are pleased to host the annual meeting of the Mountain-Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association on May 14-15, 1999.

A reception will kick things off on Thursday night, May 13, and throughout the meeting there will be a definite "Vegas" flavor as plans are in the works for a backstage tour of one of the major shows, and a possible Saturday afternoon excursion into the surrounding desert. And, at the request of Gary Mayhood, there may even be a special MPMLA gathering at the Treasure Island battle!

The conference headquarters will be the Hotel San Remo, located on Tropicana Blvd. just off of Las Vegas Blvd., better known as "The Strip." Conference rates will be $55.00 for a single/double for Thursday night, $89.00 for a single/double on Friday and Saturday nights, and 15.00 for each additional person. The Strip is the biggest attention-getter in Las Vegas, but other attractions of interest are Hoover Dam, The Liberace Museum (!), Ethel M's Candy Factory, and for those outdoor-types, hiking at nearby Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston.

Most major airlines fly into McCarran International Airport. Highway 1-15 North/South passes through the heart of Las Vegas, fairly close to the Hotel San Remo, for those who are planning to drive.

Plan now to have a wonderful time in Las Vegas. Great plans are in the works for the program and the excursions. Weather in Las Vegas in May is great, so bring your sunglasses and be prepared for a memorable meeting. You just may even catch a glimpse of Elvis.

Cheryl Taranto
Chair, Local Arrangements
Greetings to all
Mountain-Plainers--

Well, fall is here, even in Arizona! I hope that this finds everyone well, and working hard. First, a big thanks to the people in Boulder for an excellent conference. I continue to be amazed at the variety of papers presented at our meetings, by chapter members. And on top of all those papers, we even managed to have some "Titanic" fun! Cheryl Taranto is already working on our meeting for Las Vegas this coming May. Watch your Conventional Title for details. And speaking of meetings, I hope everyone is planning on attending the national conference in Los Angeles this March. As the time approaches, we will make arrangements for the traditional chapter dinner.

Looking to get more involved in Chapter Activities? We have two excellent opportunities. First, we have been awarded a Chapter Grant by the MLA Board to develop a workshop on "Music in the General Library". There is a further explanation of this grant and our proposal in this newsletter. As many on you know, this was in many ways the "brainchild" of Ian Fairclough, who has moved to the greener hills of Washington State. If you are interested in working on developing this workshop, please contact me as soon as possible. The Board needs to name a group as soon as possible. Second, as many of you may know, we are working to bring a MLA annual conference to the area for 2002. At this point, we are thinking of Las Vegas and are beginning to work on a proposal that would be presented to the MLA Board in Los Angeles. Again, if you are interested in helping with this proposal (and the invitation will come from the entire Chapter), please contact me.

Finally, if you haven’t looked at Laurie Eagleson’s archive of Chapter Photos on the web, be sure to visit at the following url: http://www.library.arizona.edu/mpmla-archive/.

Bob Follet
Mountain-Plains Chapter Chair

MPMLA
The Mountain-Plains Chapter encompasses Alberta, Canada, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. It is one of twelve regional chapters of the Music Library Association.

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Mountain-Plains Chapter,
MPMLA Annual Conference - May 28-30, 1998

Celebrating its 20th anniversary as part of the Music Library Association, the Mountain-Plains Chapter returned May 28-30, 1998 to its roots in Boulder, Colorado, site of the first chapter meeting in 1978.

Thursday evening, early arrivals were shuttled to Suzanne Gertig's lovely new home in Arvada, close enough to a lake to feel the evening breeze off of the water. Mountain-Plainers enjoyed a light dinner followed by enough choices of exotic desserts to tempt even the strongest to over-indulge. The Gertig decks and delightful music room were popular spots for renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Following Friday morning registration at the conference hotel, The Broker Inn, chapter members were warmly welcomed to Boulder by University of Colorado's Dean of Libraries James Williams II, who commented about the role of librarians and the nature of scholarly work and publication.

Friday's paper presentations covered, as always, a wide variety of topics. Suzanne Gertig (Univ. of Denver) opened with, "What They Don't Remember: Long and Short-Term Memory in Music Bibliography." After briefly describing her music bibliography course, Suzanne shared a post-test of 10 questions which she devised, comparing results over a two-year period. The test is used to assist in ongoing evaluation of course content, presentation and student retention.

In her paper, "Architectural Follies of Building a New Music Library," Cheryl Taranto (UNLV) spoke about the pros and cons, and sometimes extreme difficulties in working with administrators and architects to design music library space for functionality and efficiency. She warned the group to watch architects and electricians closely for unwanted changes and to act on any problems immediately. Ian Fairclough (Univ. of Wyoming) reviewed the history of MLA's Video Roundtable and distributed a chronology of programs it had sponsored as part of his paper, "Confessions of a Round Table Coordinator, or, How I got to Organize MLA's Video Roundtable Without Really Knowing what I was Doing." Ian offered personal suggestions on how Round Tables can best contribute to MLA conferences.

The morning paper session closed with Jenny Williams' (Arizona State Univ.), "The Sound of Indian America: Native American Music, Canyon Records, and ASU." Jenny detailed Canyon Records' history from its 1951 beginning to its present status as one of the largest companies recording and distributing music of this type. Her presentation included several recorded examples of prominent Canyon recording artists and groups, as well as a useful discography.

Following a generous lunch break, Chapter members were ready for the afternoon paper session, which began with "Music at the Colorado Chautauqua: One Hundred Years of Sustained Tradition," an interesting look at one of the longest running Chautauquas in America. Local Arrangements Chair Laurie Sampsel and committee member Marcy D'AVIS presented slides and discussion on the entertainers, performance highlights and history of the event's buildings.

Bob Follet took the group from Colorado to Europe, presenting

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Lincoln City Libraries
Carolyn Dow, Reporter

Staff Activities
At the conclusion of the 1998 Nebraska Library Association conference, Carolyn Dow assumed her duties as chair of the Special & Institutional Section of the state library association.

Library Projects
October 1998 saw the Polley Music Library set a new monthly record for reference transactions: 2647. (Not bad for 2 1/2 FTE covering 48 hours per week of public service.)

New Mexico State University
Gary W. Mayhood, Reporter

Library Projects
We received a grant this past summer to begin a retrospective pamphlet binding project of all single signature scores already cataloged in the library. We hope to have the project finished before Christmas Break.

Staff Activities
Both Sherry Ward and Gary were out of commission during the month of October. Medical problems just seem to plague all of us music people at NMSU. Happily, we are both on the mend and we should be back on a full-time schedule soon.

Northern Arizona University
Ed Cahall, reporter

Staff Activities
NAU’s newest member of MPMLA, David Bruner, is a bassoonist and contra-bassoonist. David previously worked at Southwest Texas State and was hired at NAU as Principal Cataloger, but is currently Interim Head of Bibliographic Services. He also serves as our Music selector/specialist. This is David’s first experience as a music librarian, and he is finding that it is an interesting change.

University of Arizona
Judy Marley, Reporter

Major New Acquisitions
As part of the first endowed professorship within the School of Music and Dance at the University of Arizona, its Music Library and Special Collections Department at the main library are the recipients of more than 500 scores from the estate of the late composer and arranger Nelson Riddle. Included in the collection are the autograph of the film score to "The Great Gatsby," which won an Academy Award.

University of Kansas
Vic Cardell, reporter

Library Projects
Several major projects are in the works. Construction on a new music library will start in November of 1998, with an opening anticipated by June 2000. Thomas Gorton Music Library staff are to begin a retrospective conversion of the LP collection in November 1998 using OCLC CatME. Finally, KU Libraries have signed a contract with Endeavor for the Voyager online system, to be implemented by June 1999.

University of Nebraska--Lincoln
Anita Breckbill, Reporter

Staff Activities
Anita Breckbill, the head of the Music Library at the University of Nebraska--Lincoln, spent February through July 1998 in Wales on a sabbatical. She headed a team of five catalogers at the University of Wales, Bangor whose task was to catalog 10,000 books and scores that belonged to an institution merging with the university. The experience was an international one, as the team consisted of catalogers from Australia, Canada and the U.S. They were hired by a native Japanese librarian, trained by an English librarian, and they worked in a library headed by a Welsh librarian.


Boulder Business Meeting

A long, narrow room, dubbed "The Porch," in historic Hotel Boulderado was the venue for the annual MPMLA lunch and business meeting. A delightful meal, complete with a festively decorated cake, helped Mountain-Plainers celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first chapter meeting, also in Boulder.

Chair Gary Mayhood called the group to order at 12:35 P.M., thanking his Board and all of the chapter for their many kindnesses during his extended illness. A financial report by chapter secretary/treasurer Irene Halliday followed. Vic Cardell, chair of the MPMLA website steering committee, gave a brief update on site plans and progress. He requested the Nebraska state song from Carolyn Dow, to be added to the site, and extended a general request for other state songs from the region.

Mayhood informed the membership of two grant applications currently being considered by MLA; one to assist in establishing the website; the other to help finance a traveling workshop proposed by Ian Fairclough.

Laurie Sampsel, local arrangements chair, and her excellent committee were recognized and thanked for an outstanding conference. Since the Boulder conference required a change from the normal weekend for MPMLA conferences, Mayhood briefly revisited the issue of conference dates. The second weekend in May remains the members' preference.

Vice-chair Bob Follet suggested a conference budget for future local arrangements committees, with a charge that they try to be cost-efficient and flexible. He noted that we must, however, realize that some cities are going to be very expensive, and plan our visits to them accordingly. A discussion about various aspects of conference-planning ensued. Concern was expressed about MPMLA conferences becoming too much like national conferences as far as expense is concerned, resulting in some of our membership being forced to remain at home. Suzanne Gertig suggested continuing the discussion on MPMLA-L, the chapter listserv, as achieving consensus was unlikely during a brief business meeting. Chapter members agreed.

Chair Mayhood then announced the election results [drum roll here]: Suzanne Gertig is the new Vice-chair/Chair-elect, with Laurie Eagleson, Member-at-large, and Irene Halliday, Secretary/Treasurer.

With her unique humorous flourish, Shelly Wolff presented the coin-filled sock commission, fresh from Shelly's sock drawer, to Carolyn Dow for her wonderful chapter madrigal, now cataloged in the OCLC database. Showing that she is not only talented but generous, Carolyn promptly handed the money sock to Irene Halliday to deposit in the chapter's much-depleted bank account.

Gary then proposed that a pamphlet be designed as a means of publicizing the Mountain-Plains Chapter and suggested as possible titles, "MPMLA - Is it for you?" or "MPMLA - Goals 2000." He welcomed other title suggestions and invited individuals interested in working on this project to contact him.

The final agenda item turned out to be the much-anticipated invitation from Cheryl Taranto to come to Las Vegas for next year's conference. MPMLAers enthusiastically approved a "desert getaway in May."

His responsibilities as MPMLA Chair complete, Gary Mayhood figuratively passed the gavel to new Chair Bob Follet, after inviting all of the members who were remaining in Boulder overnight to the launching of an inflatable Titanic in the hotel pool at 5:30 P.M. Chair Follet's first and only item of business was to announce the latest MPMLA commission, obtained at Friday's gala banquet. Diane Follet will receive a generous $5.43 upon completion of a 20th anniversary composition that is to include the chapter motto, a Norwegian phrase known only to Annette Voth, who may be contacted for a translation. This work is the 6th MPMLA commission and should be numbered Bexar 6. [Vice-chair Gertig can explain the Bexar history.]

The financial reward will, of course, reside in Suzanne Gertig's sock drawer until said work is completed and cataloged in an appropriate national database. Amid good-natured smiles and laughter, with strains of Wim-o-weh in the background, the 1998 meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Irene Halliday
MPMLA Receives MLA Grant

Each year the Music Library Association makes funds available to support special projects or activities in the various local chapters. This year Mountain Plains received such a grant in the amount of $1,300 to fund a proposal submitted through our chapter by Ian Fairclough (University of Wyoming). Ian’s proposal is to develop a master set of materials that could be used as the basis for one day workshops dealing with all aspects of music resources for those public, school and college libraries where staff might have little or no training in music librarianship. These materials will be available for all our chapter members to use who might wish to support or conduct such a workshop within their state. The master set of materials would cover four areas: musical materials in the general library; finding music in online and manual catalogs; music reference sources for the general library; and physical processing and preservation concerns for music. Promotional materials for MLA and, of course, MPMLA will be included. The goals of the workshop would be to bring a more heightened awareness of the unique nature of music materials to library personnel and to promote MLA and MPMLA in our area as a valuable resource.

Gary Mayhood

Announcing:
The Official MPMLA Website!

Amid the fanfare of a gala virtual grand opening, in mid-October the Mountain-Plains Chapter established a colorful presence on the World Wide Web. Vic Cardell (University of Kansas) has assembled an informative site that is fun and easy to navigate. Features of the site include the latest chapter news and information, as well as links to MPMLA libraries and photos from chapter activities. Other links will take site visitors to other MLA chapters’ web sites and various online resources.

Be sure to visit the site at the following url: www2.lib.ukans.edu/~musiclib/mpmla/.

You Can Be a Star in Las Vegas

Now is the time to start thinking of program ideas for the Las Vegas Chapter Meeting this May! If you are interested in giving a paper, please contact Annette Voth, Chair of the Program Committee. Or if you would like to assist Annette in preparation for the Meeting by serving on the Program Committee, let her know. She can be reached via email at Annette.Voth@ASU.Edu or by phone at 602-965-4267.
MPMLA Annual Conference
(Continued from page 3)

a detective story in "Boccherini—the Missing Years: A Case for the Musical Detective."

Scholars disagree as to Luigi Boccherini's location and activities during a 9-year disappearance; that he continued to compose is certain, due to available dated works. Bob explored various location options based on stylistic musical traits, correspondence, etc., finally giving evidence to support the theory that the composer was in Spain, but out of the musical mainstream.

The final paper of the afternoon, Shelly Wolff's (Wichita State Univ.) "In the Jungle (of Discography) the Lion Sleeps Tonight," was a fascinating look at the African tune which came to be known as "Wimoweh" in the United States. Shelly traced its origin and evolution through various performers, seasoning her remarks with several recorded examples. "Wimoweh" became the chapter theme song for the rest of the conference. (Members couldn't get it out of their minds!)

Red stone buildings on the Univ. of Colorado campus provided a pleasing contrast to the greens of the surrounding landscape on an afternoon "fieldtrip." MPMLAers were treated to tours of the newly-renovated Macky Auditorium, with its striking stained glass windows, the Imig Music Building, and the Music Library.

With just enough free time to rest and freshen up, chapter members reassembled at the Broker for a gala buffet banquet. Chair Mayhood reminded everyone of the departure of Chapter Cataloger/Doctor of Catalogology (CC/DC) Paul Gahn to points east. New member Marcy D'Avis was chosen to replace Paul as CC/DC, with Jenny Williams as her assistant (AC/DC). As members consumed ever more helpings of the warm giant chocolate chip cookie, which proved the most popular of the desserts, a new musical commission proposal surfaced. Diane Follet, not present at the banquet and therefore, a prime candidate, was nominated to do a 20th anniversary composition (Bexar 6), to include the Chapter Motto, a Norwegian phrase known only to Annette Voth. The $5.43 commission fee, collected on the spot, is being held in Suzanne Gertig's -- you guessed it -- sock drawer.

Saturday morning found members back on CU campus in the historic Norlin Library British Studies room for a wonderful continental breakfast followed by the final paper session. Judy Marley (Univ. of Arizona) gave a well-researched and enlightening paper, "The Fair Use Clause of Copyright Law: Providing a Balance Between Proprietary Control and Free Use." She outlined various landmark court cases involving fair use issues and shared a list of web sites for further study. Barbara Lukes (Univ. of New Mexico) addressed "Preservation Issues for LPs in the Library." She shared UNM's LP gift and preservation practices, as well as a video illustrating the proper cleaning techniques used in UNM's Fine Arts Library. Barbara also circulated a questionnaire surveying the members as to how their libraries deal with LPs, since newer technologies prevail. In the final paper of the conference, "The Nebraska State Song Contest," Carolyn Dow (Lincoln City Libraries) showed how politics even creep into the selection of a state song. She presented a history of the contest, the submissions, and selection of a winner, including slides of the wonderful sheet music cover art on the published finalist selections.

Following the annual business lunch [reported elsewhere in this issue] at the historic Hotel Boulderado downtown, Chapter members who were remaining in Boulder enjoyed post-conference tours to the Chautauqua, or the Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art and Celestial Seasonings Tea Factory. Dinner at the Red Lion in Boulder Canyon capped off a full, but exciting, Saturday. [For a detailed post-conference account, see the MPMLA-L Archives for Shelly Wolff's entertaining message of 23 June 1998]. Friendly farewells were exchanged as MPMLAers prepared to depart Boulder, even as they anticipated trading the Rockies for the Mojave Desert. Next year in Las Vegas!

Respectfully submitted, Irene Halliday,
Secretary/Treasurer
The Star Spangled Banner
(from a Drummer's Perspective)

Oh, say can you Boom, Crash
By the dawn's early Boom, Crash
What so proudly we Boom, Crash
At the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright Boom, Crash
Through the perilous Boom, Crash
O'er the ramparts we Boom, Crash
Were so gallantly streaming? 3 &
1...2...3...
2...2...3...
3...2...3...
4...2...3...
5...2...3...
6...2...3...
7...2...3...
8...2...Oh,
Boom Boom Boom
Boom Boom Boom
Boom Boom Boom
Boom Boooommm; Boom
Boom Boom Boom
Boom Boooommm; Boom
Boom Boom Boom
Boooommmmmmm!