From the MPLA/MLA Chapter Chair Suzanne L. Moulton-Gertig, University of Denver

Dear Chapter Members,

Welcome to the fall season. The first nine months of the new millennium have been active for us as a chapter. Planning that began last February at the national meeting in Louisville and at our spring meeting in Greeley continued over the summer with visits in Las Vegas to possible Local Arrangements venues. In June, Local Arrangements Co-chairs Cheryl Taranto and Bob Follet and I met in Las Vegas (such a sacrifice...smile) with representatives from the Liberace Museum to pursue holding the Local Arrangements Reception for the MLA conference there. Cheryl and Bob have been busy working with the conference manager Don Roberts and other MLA national people who are an integral part of the planning for MLA 2002.

Recently, I received a couple of newsletters from other chapters of MLA. One chapter chair's greeting column was headed, "FROM THE CHAIR: MLA/(chapter name) NEEDS YOU!" In this column, the chair informed his/her fellow members that the position of vice-chair/chair elect was vacant. The paragraph concluded with the following: "Remember, if we have no vice-chair this year, we have no chair next year, and that does not bode well for the chapter."

Since I joined the Mountain Plains Chapter ten years ago, I am pleased to say that I do not remember that getting people to serve as officers and on committees has ever been a problem. Amongst our many points of justifiable pride is the very fact that we are interested in making our chapter the best that it can be. In our most recent election, we had members volunteer to run for offices, and when some were asked to consider filling in a spot that hadn't been volunteered, no one declined. We do rather unique things like commission works by chapter members, have a long-standing and active chapter historian, and establish several other more tongue-in-cheek "ceremonial" office proclamations to display our sense of humor.

In February 2001 we will meet as a chapter in NYC during the national conference to discuss further the plans and activities we will undertake for MLA Las Vegas 2002. At the time of this writing, the national program committee has set aside Thursday evening during the conference as chapter meetings time. Please plan to attend the chapter meeting in the room that facilities planner Michael Rogan sets aside for us. By then, the Local Arrangements Chairs will have a better idea of the many things that will need to be done by all of us to guarantee the success of this upcoming conference. Next May in Provo at the annual chapter meeting hosted by our good friends at BYU we will finalize anything that still needs attention.

Along with my thanks to all those who offered to serve in our chapter, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the past officers, Bob Follet, Gary Mayhood, Irene Halliday, Laurie Eagleson (also for her superb website chapter meeting photography work), MPMLA-L list and website guru Vic Cardell, and newsletter editor Ed Cahall for their fine work during the past two years (and in some cases, many years). We new incoming officers salute you and appreciate all that you have done. I'd like at this time to welcome Jean Jensen, our new newsletter editor.

My best to all of you this fall, and I look forward to seeing you in NYC and Provo this academic year.

---Suzanne

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CONGRATULATIONS to Laurie Sampsel, University of Colorado at Boulder, for publication this year of Cyril Scott, a Bio-Bibliography, published by Greenwood Press

MLA 2002, VEGAS STYLE
by Cheryl Taranto

With our last chapter meeting in Greeley, planning for the MLA meeting in Las Vegas in 2002 began in earnest. In June, Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, Bob Follet and I met with the sales manager and the executive director of the Liberace Museum concerning the possibility of holding the local arrangements reception there. The meeting went well, and the contract is now signed with the museum.

Catering will likely be provided by Carluccio’s Tivoli Gardens, a restaurant owned at one time by Liberace and located at the museum. The local arrangements reception will cost between $5,000 and $6,000 (including transportation to and from the Liberace Museum), so we have plenty of fund raising ahead of us!

The opening reception will be on Monday, February 18, 2002, the Local Arrangements Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, and the banquet will be Thursday, February 21.

Speaking of fund raising, there are two ventures in progress. As most of you know, letters soliciting financial support have been sent to library deans and directors at those MPMLA institutions for which I received names and addresses. Those of you who responded to my plea should have received a copy of the letter that we sent. If you have not provided me with dean/director name and address information, it’s not too late. Send it to me at ctaranto@ccmail.nevada.edu or give me a call at (702) 895-4623. Please follow up with your own dean or director and encourage him or her to support this important venture.

Secondly in the fund raising realm, 400 decks of cards with the MLA 2002 logo printed on them will be ready for sale ($6 per deck) by the date of the New York meeting. The logo is being designed by a graphic design student at UNLV, and will appear on folders, programs, name tags, etc.

In late September, I met with Stephen Davison, Program Chair for the Las Vegas meeting, concerning possible plenary session topics. Two ideas that Bob, Suzanne, and I have are a session on Southwest music in general, and another focusing on Las Vegas entertainment. If any of you have suggestions, please let me know soon. Also, do you have ideas about what kind of entertainment we should provide at the receptions or at the banquet?

As plans move forward for the 2002 meeting, I will provide regular updates on MPMLA-L and via Conventional Title. Please feel free to contact me about any aspect of the meeting. I’m looking forward to seeing you in New York, Provo, and then Las Vegas!

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 18-21, 2002
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
GREELEY, COLORADO
MAY 12-13, 2000
CONFERENCE REPORT
by Irene Halliday

The wide, blue skies of northern Colorado were a welcome sight for members of the MP/MLA as they gathered at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

A tasty continental breakfast awaited members at registration at UNC’s new music library. Gary Pitkin, Dean of the UNC Libraries, welcomed everyone in Greeley and gave a brief history of the new music library.

Cheryl Taranto (UNLV) presented "The Arnold Shaw Collection: Preserving a Piece of the Las Vegas Musical Scene." She spoke of using Microsoft Access to provide patron access to over 10,000 items, including books, Musician’s Union records, audiotapes, reviews, music, LPs, press releases, etc. She played entertaining examples from the collection of taped interviews with musical celebrities.

Eric Petersen (Univ. of Colo) represented the technical services side of music librarianship with "Introduction to Macros for Passport and CatME." He demonstrated the value of using macros to ensure accuracy and consistency in repetitive operations, and provided examples of how to design an effective macro.

After a short break, the group reassembled for "Melisande Meets Lulu: Operatic Heroines from the Feminist Perspective" presented by Diane Follett (UNC). Surveying six operas, she emphasized the woman’s voice as articulated by the female protagonists and suggested a positive approach to rethinking interpretation of these characters in seeking a more balanced view.

Judy Marley described a 1998 project involving patrons of the Univ. of Arizona music library. The goal was to identify those elements rated most important/least satisfied by customers. Results indicated the top three areas of patron concern are: recordings (quantity and quality), a tie between circulation services and personal assistance from staff, and listening/viewing equipment.

After lunch at nearby restaurants and time to browse the UNC music library, the group heard Anita Breckbill and Laura Damuth (Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln) discuss "Ruth Etting: Chicago’s Sweetheart and LA’s Little Lady." Etting was a famous torch singer and actress of the 1920s and 30s. The presenters introduced Etting through a life sketch, liberally interspersed with visual and audio materials from the archive of photographs, sheet music and scrapbooks at the university.

A presentation by Janet Bradford (BYU) and Lori Stevens (Utah Valley State College) entitled "Shooting Stars: Ethel Merman and Bernadette Peters Take Aim at Annie Get Your Gun" provided brief life sketches followed by highlights of performances of Merman and Peters as Annie Oakley.

Following the session, MP/MLAers had free time for browsing local antique stores, sight-seeing, swimming, or other diversions before a congenial dinner hour at Potato Brumbaugh’s. Following the banquet, some of the group extended the evening at the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra concert.

Saturday morning’s session began with a hot topic in today’s technology-driven environment, "Digitizing Music Scores: A Starter Kit." Laurie Sampsel and Marcy D’Avis (Univ of Colo, Boulder) spoke of beginning a digitization project to improve access to and preservation of musical scores. Before beginning, consider what is to be digitized and why, the targeted audience, whether the library owns the rights on the materials to be scanned, the end products desired, amount of administrative support, available funding, hardware and software needed, space and staff availability, and workflow.

In "A Musical Anachronism: Reynaldo Hahn and His Music," Suzanne Gertig (Univ. of Denver) focused on Hahn’s anachronistic tendencies in musical composition. He felt that music was a glaze to enhance the more important text, that vocal music, not instrumental, is the real music.

Following the morning break, attendees learned of Mitsue Nara, a Japanese popular singer of unusual grace and remarkable beauty, active from 1940 to the late fifties. Hiromi Matsushita (Univ of Utah) presented episodes from her life, enhanced by recorded excerpts of some of her most popular songs.

The final conference paper brought the group back out West with "The Austin and Alta Fife Ballad Collection in Utah State University’s Archives." Jean Jensen recounted the story of Dr. Fife, professor at Stanford and later at USU who, with his wife, collected folk songs, ballads, and cowboy songs. Jensen turned the audience into a chorus, singing such songs as "My Ma was Born in Texas."

After lunch and business meeting, and with friendships renewed and collegial ties strengthened, chapter members bid farewell to Greeley and each other. Another productive and stimulating conference.
MPMLA Business Meeting  
May 13, 2000  
Greeley, Colorado  
by Irene Halliday

Colorado's state flower inspired the name of the Columbine Room in the University of Northern Colorado's University Center, venue for MPMLA's annual business lunch. The "French Dips" or "Spinach Crepes" gathered at noon to consume those menu choices over pleasant conversation. As dessert was served, Chair Bob Follet called the meeting to order. Secretary/Treasurer Irene Halliday presented the financial report to date. Bob thanked her for her six years of service, then announced the recent election results. Janet Bradford is Vice Chair/Chair-elect, with Annette Voth as Member-at-large and Anita Breckbill, Secretary/Treasurer.

Bob informed the group of MLA's new business managers, sharing reasons for the change as given at February's national meeting in Louisville.

A discussion of the 2002 MLA conference in Las Vegas followed. Members were reminded of various chapter responsibilities, including the Local Arrangements Reception (with its attendant need for fund-raising), registration desk staffing, packet stuffing, etc. Follet suggested that those members who can arrange to do so should plan to arrive in Las Vegas a day early to help with packets and other duties. Carolyn Dow volunteered to handle registration.

Cheryl Taranto presented the possibility of using the Liberace Museum for the Local Arrangements Reception, either inside or under a tent in the parking lot, with accompanying museum tours. Taranto contacted the museum administrators; they are interested in working with the chapter and could possibly be asked to help with funding. Cheryl will follow through with negotiations. Bob and Suzanne will draft a letter requesting funding assistance to the Deans/Directors of the various institutions throughout the chapter. Members were requested to contact Bob or Cheryl with any other funding ideas.

The chapter newsletter was the next item of business. Bob proposed a format change, following the lead of other MLA chapters. The newsletter would be produced electronically and mounted on MPMLA's website. Upon request, a print copy could be produced and mailed to members without internet access. Bob proposed a final general print issue in October. The format change was approved by the group. Bob issued a request for a volunteer to assume the duties of newsletter editor.

Strains of the theme from the motion picture 2001—a Space Odyssey accompanied the dramatically slow unrolling of a poster by Janet and Daron Bradford, inviting the chapter to Utah in 2001 to see the results of BYU's own "Space Odyssey," a new music library in the main library. Janet enticed the group with a description of activities planned to make the Provo MPMLA conference memorable. The membership enthusiastically accepted BYU's invitation.

Bob congratulated Vic Cardell on his selection as one of three "Best of Chapter" session presenters in Louisville, and reminded the attendees of another session planned for New York City. Annette Voth was appointed to chair the selection committee. She will conduct the balloting via e-mail.

Bob's final item of business was to request ideas for a New York skit inviting MLA members to Las Vegas. Some type of lively presentation is traditionally given at the end of the MLA business meeting. A logo, a song tie-in, and something to pass to or toss out into the audience (poker chips? Liberace rings?) are desirable skit elements. Several spontaneous suggestions were forthcoming. Members were requested to contact Bob, Cheryl, or Suzanne with additional ideas.

Business completed, outgoing Chair Follet passed the imaginary gavel to incoming Chair Gertig, who warmly thanked Steve Luttman and his staff at UNC for an excellent conference, as well as the program committee and all others involved in any way.
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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Conventional Title is the semi-annual newsletter of the Mountain Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association.

MLA Mountain-Plains Chapter
Financial Report
1999-2000

Beginning checking balance $1765.72
($1300 of this is MLA grant money)

Receipts
Membership dues $460.00
Dividends earned 38.31
Conference registration 933.00

Total receipts $1431.31

Disbursements
Newsletter (1 issue) donated by Ed Cahall
Membership list $7.65
Conference mailing/materials 61.80
Business lunch 310.53

Total disbursements $379.98

Ending balance September 1, 2000* $2817.05

*Please note: The fiscal year closed June 30, 2000. Additional time for check clearance following the Greeley conference was allowed before closing the Utah account and transferring the funds to Secretary/Treasurer Anita Breckbill in Nebraska on 9/1/00.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Halliday

MOUNTAIN PLAINS CHAPTER/MLA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 18-19, 2001
PROVO, UTAH

Utah State Historical Society
The Mountain Plains Chapter MLA membership year is July 1 through June 30. Annual dues are $10. Please send your check and keep your membership current. We need you!

Make check out to: Mountain Plains Chapter MLA and send it to: Anita Breckbill 3237 R Street Lincoln, NE 68503

THANK YOU!

MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE OMAHA, NEBRASKA OCTOBER 25-28, 2000

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