Message from the Chair

How time flies! It is hard to believe that it is already April, which means that the annual Chapter meeting is just around the corner. In mid-May, we will gather in Lincoln, Nebraska. Many thanks go to Anita Breckbill, our Local Arrangements Chair, Carolyn Dow our Program Chair, and Woody Colahan, for his excellent work on the conference website. I am pleased to report that we received another Music Library Association chapter grant to continue our Travel Grant program. The grant gives monetary support for attendance at the Lincoln meeting. The due date for applying is April 21, 2017. Anyone is eligible, but we give preference to first-time attendees, those in their first five years of employment as a music librarian, and those giving a presentation at the meeting. Think about who might be a good candidate for this and encourage them to apply. For details, see the application form in the newsletter.

Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University

It was a pleasure seeing everyone at the annual meeting in Orlando. For our Thursday night Chapter Dinner/Meeting, Myrna Layton picked out a wonderful restaurant, Lafayette’s. Many thanks, Myrna, for your work on this. In addition to many old friends and colleagues, I was very pleased to see so many new faces. It is great to see so many becoming involved with the Chapter. Because we were in a private room, and had a quorum in attendance, we decided to hold an actual business meeting as the MPMLA board has been working on a number of initiatives that needed the chapter’s approval before the annual meeting.

Prior to my assuming the reins of Chapter Chair, my predecessor Daryll Stevens was approached by the MLA board to see if we would like to have our chapter dues integrated with our national dues. The MPMLA Board felt that this would be a good idea, so we put it to a vote, which was approved by all present – with the proviso that members no longer affiliated with the national would still have the option to submit their dues directly to the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer as in the past. Related to this, the Board also recommended that we provide two categories of membership: Professionals, and Students/Retirees.

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The Student/Retiree membership would be free and the Professional membership would be increased by five dollars to $15.00. This was put to a vote, which was also approved.

A final piece of business had to do with the migration of the Chapter website to the MLA web platform. In December of 2016, Chapter Webmaster, Laurie Eagleson, contacted the MPMLA board because the MLA Web Committee approached her about the potential migration. Laurie told us that the University of Arizona server hosting site is on its last legs and that the migration would be a good idea. In light of this, the board decided to put this change to a vote at the meeting and the migration was approved as well.

At the Saturday Chapter Chairs meeting, with representatives from the MLA Board, I reported on the Thursday night meeting. Between now and the Lincoln meeting, I will be working with the national and MPMLA board members to start getting everything into place.

I look forward to seeing everyone next month in Lincoln and, if past meetings are an indication, I know that we will have both a wonderful and informative time.

Christopher Mehrens
Chair, MPMLA
Christopher.Mehrens@asu.edu

Suzanne Mouton-Gertig – Retired from University of Denver

I am in Campeche, Mexico on the northern coast of the Yucatan. John and I have been visiting archeological sites throughout the peninsula and having a great time. It’s very hot down here today, about 104 Fahrenheit.

I hope everyone has a great meeting in Lincoln. Interestingly, the first time I went to Lincoln for MPMLA, I ended up sitting next to this very nice man with whom I had a really pleasant conversation. To my surprise, it turned out to be the Nebraskan Governor’s husband! So, you never know who you will meet in Economy when you are flying.

Best wishes to all from New Hampshire via Mexico (where everyone has been really nice here in the Yucatan, so don't be afraid to go, OK?)

Christine Edwards – University of Central Oklahoma

While in Orlando for the Music Library Association conference, I was able to participate in the Disney Princess 5K race in Epcot.
Grace Haynes, Stephanie Bonjack – University of Colorado at Boulder

Renovation Plans:
We are thrilled to announce that as a result of work with a space planner, including several space assessments and focus groups with library stakeholders, the Howard B. Waltz Music Library at the University of Colorado Boulder will undergo an extensive renovation this summer 2017. This renovation will make more efficient use of staff work areas, introduce comfortable seating areas for patrons, create multiple student group study rooms, and update the overall look of the library. Much of the student feedback we have received in recent years has highlighted the need for both dedicated group study spaces and quiet study space. We introduced the Music Library’s very first bookable student group study room at the beginning of February, and have seen high usage numbers through the data we are collecting via the LibCal reservation system. In the month of February, over fifty students used the space. Based on the current data for March, we expect to see even higher numbers of reservations.

Due to the construction that will take place over the summer, the library will be closed from May 13 (the day after commencement) through August. Because the library is going to be a hard-hat area, we will have limited access to our collection and will be unable to loan our materials via Prospector, Mobius, and/or Interlibrary loan from April through the completion of the project.

Shifting:
In order to prepare for a possible renovation, the Music Library staff began a massive weeding and shifting project in the spring of 2016. This process condensed the reference collection, consolidated in-house use only materials, and identified hundreds of items in the circulating stacks that were over 100 years old. As a result, rare materials are receiving preservation treatment and appropriate housing. We were able to remove a number of reference shelves to make room for new seating. We just completed a shift of the entire collection.

Awards and Kudos:
Clara Burns, Music Copy Cataloger, was a recipient of the Ralph Papakhian Travel Grant to attend MOUG at the most recent MLA meeting in Orlando, FL. Congratulations, Clara!

Did you catch our article in the recent MLA Newsletter No.189, Jan-Feb 2017? Melanie Cutietta, Branch Manager, was featured on page 32, with a story about our scores now circulating through the Prospector Consortium. You can read the article here:


Q: Why doesn’t the piano work?
A: Because it exists only to play.
Q: Why are jazz musicians so sweet?

A: ‘Cause they play in jam sessions.

Carol Jarvis – University of Utah

I've been working as an intern music cataloger at the University of Utah McKay Music Library, in Salt Lake City, Utah, for almost 3 years, as of mid-April 2017. Out of that time period, I have been engaged in a major cataloging project at the McKay Music Library. Since early 2015, I have been doing both original cataloging or copy cataloging of all the School of Music theses and dissertations submitted by students working towards their Master's and Doctoral degrees in music, spanning the time period of approximately 1955 to the latest ones in 2016. As of the end of March, as I submit this report, I have about two more shelves of theses to catalog, before this project is completed. All this cataloging work has involved searching the record for the item in ALMA, the OPAC for the University of Utah Libraries, editing the cataloging record extensively and updating the holdings record to include the McKay Music Library's holdings, then searching for the same record in OCLC Connexion WorldCat. Many times, there is no OCLC WorldCat record, requiring me to create an online save file record, for further review and input into WorldCat. Or, more commonly, I do the same extensive editing of the cataloging record in OCLC Connexion WorldCat.

I find that, as I've been engaged in this project, that as I've cataloged a lot of theses from time periods a long time ago, such as the late 1950's or even 1960's, when I was either not born yet or just a little girl (in the 1960's), it has been very interesting and enlightening to see how technology has evolved over time! For example, back in the 1950's, when only typewriters were around and they did NOT type out anything like music notes and manuscripts, the thesis authors had to write that out by hand! On the other end of time periods, in the 2010's, of course, I get to see the latest computer software being used to insert music excerpts and manuscripts! I've also seen the range of topics being chosen for these theses. For example, theses I've cataloged from the late 1950's often were analyses of sacred choral masses or the thesis being a newly composed work that is the content of the thesis. I remember spending about a week, cataloging two theses by two different authors on a major sacred work entitled A wayfaring man of grief! It was all before "my time", so when I was done doing all this "cataloging of grief", I thought to myself that it was good that I was born after all of that! Then, in the current theses, I tend to see theses on the topic of teaching music to certain audiences. Not too many current musicians are thinking about grief to undue proportions!

Q: What kind of musical instrument doesn’t tell the truth?

A: A lyre
Q: Why did Beethoven get rid of his chickens?
A: ‘Cause they kept saying:

![Image of chickens]

Lisa Chaufty – University of Utah

The McKay Library is in the process of expanding our technology classroom. The architect is finalizing the plans, which is very exciting! The library’s MUSE scholar, Laurie Hite, is coming to the end of a semester of transcribing oral histories from the Utah Opera in preparation for its 40th anniversary next season. And finally, on April 7th, the McKay Library will be hosting the keynote reception for the Rocky Mountain Music Scholars’ Conference. The library will treat visitors with an exhibit of Abravanel’s Mahler symphony scores.

Q: Why was the soprano arrested?
A: Because she was in treble.

David Day – Brigham Young University

The last time I posted a message in Conventional Title was back in April of 2014. A lot has happened since then. In 2014, I noted that the Opera and Ballet Primary Sources Index had grown to 6,100 sources. It now includes about 37,000 items. We are just getting started with the Schatz libretto collection, which will bring the index to more than 50,000. We hope to reach that goal by the end of 2017.

In the past three years, BYU’s Music Special Collections has continued to grow. Some of the highlights included the following:

Numerous 18th- and early 19th-century opera and ballet scores, both manuscript and print editions. Some of the highlights in this area include a manuscript copy of Lully’s La triomphe de l’amour, a spectacular first edition of his Phaëton, Grétry’s own autograph publisher’s proofs for L’Épreuve villageoise, and the autograph score for Berton’s Les maris garçons. We also acquired a large collection of more than 100 choral orchestral works including numerous beautiful editions from the French Baroque featuring the Motets and Cantatas of Campra, Clérambault, La Lande, Michel, and Montèclair. This collection also includes a first edition, second issue of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony and first editions of major works by: Haydn (including a very rare copy of the first full score for Die Schöpfung), Mozart, Mendelssohn, Romberg, Schumann, Spohr, Weber, Gade, Dvorak, Honegger, and Orff. Also acquired separately is a unique manuscript copy of Jean Baptiste Dutartre’s Cantate de la Paix. We continue to build the harp and viola collections and recently added several important autograph scores of works for the viola and hundreds of 18th- and early 19th-century editions of works for the harp, including many items not listed in RISM. Major archival acquisitions include the papers and library of the late Gabriel Banat, an accomplished violinist and past member of the New York Philharmonic, and the papers and library of harpist Gail Barber.
Janice Bunker – Brigham Young University

News......news....news....

In October 2016, I was informed that my job at BYU’s Harold B. Lee Library was disappearing and so I would need to apply for the part-time (28 hr/wk) job that would be taking over the responsibilities of my old job. I applied, interviewed, and was given the job in mid-November. However, I really didn’t want to quit working at the Provo City Library, so I talked with my BYU department chair and the PCL supervisor, and we worked out a compromise, in which I work 21 hours per week at BYU and 19 hours per week at PCL. Unbeknownst to me, both BYU and PCL also processed raises for me, which was quite a surprise when I found out! Also, my BYU office now contains a stand-up / sit-down desk! I love it. My second grandchild is supposed to make his appearance sometime before May 28, but I can promise to be at our chapter meeting, because my daughter-in-law’s mother will be coming out on May 15th, whether or not the baby is here by then.

Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University

We are diligently chipping away at our backlogs. We finished LPs!!! The grand total is just under 100,000! WHEW!

Our sheet music collections are almost done:

*Early Sheet music (pre-1921):* 10,625 (627 cataloged since last fall)

*Historic Sheet Music (1921-):* 8680 (84 cataloged since last fall)

*Josef Bonime Sheet Music Collection:* 9738 (972 cataloged since last fall)

*Paul Pollei Sheet Music Collection: 707* (cataloged since last fall)

We are now concentrating on getting items cataloged for Music Special Collections and adding harp music gifts from Bob D. Litterell, Gail Barber, Mary Spalding and Elizabeth Stolz Willman.

On a personal note I am wrapping up my time with the Mormon Tabernacle choir. The official retirement date will be April 23rd. I’m looking forward to telling all of you about our tour to Europe last summer in Lincoln.

Can you pick out Janet? Here she is with other MoTab members who were singing for Utah Gov. Herbert’s inauguration on January 3, 2017.

Q: If a band plays music during a thunderstorm, who is most likely to get hit by lightning?

A: The conductor
Anita Breckbill - University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Music Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln recently chose some musical instruments from Asia for their collection. The instruments are from the Lentz Collection for Asian Culture, collected by former music professor Don Lentz on his travels and displayed in a museum that is now being closed.

Colleagues from the University Libraries had a surreal day of choosing, where we walked into a large room and chose museum-quality vases, figurines, textiles, and musical instruments for our collection. The Music Library is now the owner of Asian trumpets, flutes, a sitar, a fake though beautiful harp, some drums, and some anklungs (pictured), bamboo percussion instruments from Java.

We’re figuring out what to display and how, and what to send to storage for future display.

Carolyn Dow – Polley Music Library, Lincoln, Nebraska

This spring, the consultants are in the process of writing a building plan for a potential new central library. It’s been fun to think of what would be great to include, and haven’t yet hit the reality of what the consultants will actually put in the plan. The Mayor would like to have a bond issue in November 2018, so things are moving along.

In March, I presented a program in which young participants made their own rainsticks.

“What is a Synthesizer?” also ran during the month, offering participants the opportunity to play with a Korg LittleBits synth kit and experiment with sound. Several of the library’s maker space activities feature music.

I’m busy performing with a flute choir, a community orchestra and the community concert band. And writing program notes.

And, I’m involved in planning for the wonderful MPMLA conference coming in May to Lincoln. Please plan on joining us.

Daryll Stevens – Colorado College

Greetings from Colorado Springs!! We’re awaiting (from a distance) the reopening of our main campus library after a year of renovation. I think we (the library staff, anyway!) will all be amazed if this opens in time.

We’re hoping this doesn’t upend the trend we’ve been observing this year in the Seay Music Library: many more bodies in seats! Students and classes are using our revamped listening room as study, meeting, classroom, etc., space. This makes us happy...though we won’t be able to compete with the technological playground that will
encompass the first floor of the renovated campus library!

At Seay, we just hosted our annual Capstone Capers, honoring our graduating senior majors. These folks discussed their joys and sorrows and our juniors had a chance to pitch their projects -- all accompanied by pizza and juice.

The Department is making excellent progress in support of its new Music Technology program. The editing studio is finished and in use; our large recording studio is under construction and will be ready to go in August. We currently have an excellent music technology professor in a one-year position for next year; we’ll be searching for a permanent position next fall for fall 2018 (Assistant Professor of Music Technology). Please spread the word!!

Meanwhile, I’m contemplating a redo of my collection development practices. Students don’t use CDs, or M2’s-M3’s. The curriculum is a-changing. Taking a look at this, this summer. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone soon in Lincoln!

**Chris Mehrens – Arizona State University**

Many changes are taking place at the ASU Library (note change of name). We are involved with a “reinvention” of our organization, which will include changes in responsibilities and reporting lines. The Library is also moving forward with renovation of Hayden Library (the main library on the Tempe Campus). The tower of this structure will close sometime in 2017 and, related to this, I am looking forward to hosting two archivists and their related collections in the Music Library for 18 months.

I am pleased to report that we received the archive of Trombonist Thomas Everett, former conductor of bands at Harvard and founder of the International Trombone Association. The archive contains both unpublished published trombone works as well as Everett’s correspondence with significant composers of our time including Ulysses Kay. All of this was made possible through the kindness of retired ASU Trombone Professor Douglas Yeo. Professor Yeo got to know Thomas Everett during his 27 year tenure as Bass Trombonist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra/Boston Pops Orchestra and service on the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music.

**Elizabeth York – University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma**

My article, “Barney and Gloria: Revisiting Tin Pan Alley” has been published in the March 2017 issue of *Notes*. This article is based on the research I presented at the poster session at the 2016 MLA Conference in Cincinnati.

Second, I have just returned from the International Musicological Society’s Quinquennial Congress in Tokyo, where I presented a paper, “Takarazuka Revue and Retheorizing the American Musical: Cole Porter’s *Can-Can* in Performance.”
MPMLA Annual Meeting 2017

You are warmly invited to the 2017 MPMLA conference, taking place at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, NE, May 19 and 20. Thanks to Woody Colahan for creating a website for the conference:  https://sites.google.com/site/mpmla17/home

The website gives directions on how to register at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, which is the conference hotel, or in dorms, if you prefer to stay on campus. Carolyn Dow is accepting paper and presentation proposals. The meeting will take place at Love Library on campus, and perhaps also at Westbrook Music Building. And if you’re interested in food, early arrivers can join us for dinner Thursday night at the Blue Orchid, a local Thai Restaurant. The Friday night dinner will be at Misty’s Steakhouse, which is legendary in Lincoln, at the downtown location. The lunch on Saturday will be a pita bar from a local Mediterranean restaurant, Sultan’s Kite.

We’re looking forward to seeing you all in Lincoln.

From the Local Arrangements Committee: Anita Breckbill, Carolyn Dow, Ben Fry, Jeremiah Johnson

Notices:

MPMLA conference attendees:

I am selling the fabulous and humongous music collection of my late husband, David Breckbill. You may be interested in making a visit to the collection when you come to the MPMLA meeting in May. The collection consists of:

- 1300 books and scores, priced at low Amazon prices
- 7500 CDs, priced at $4 per CD
- 3000 LPs, priced at $2 per LP
- A wall of 78 albums, priced at $.50 per album

I can show the collection before and after the conference on Thursday and Saturday afternoons and after dinner on Thursday and Friday evenings. And I can take you to and from my house—even airport runs! Think about how your library or your personal collection might benefit from these materials. I am happy to invoice as necessary and to mail items, so that you don’t have to schlep them home. Dave was a music critic, and his interests were piano, singers, orchestra, chamber, conductors, Beethoven, Wagner, Martinu, and lots of everything. – Anita Breckbill

The Blue Orchid, site of the chapter’s Thursday night dinner, just won the 2017 Lincoln People’s Choice Award for Best Asian Food! Please plan on joining us for dinner that evening. More details will be found on the website. – Carolyn Dow
Mountain Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association: MPMLA TRAVEL GRANT
Chapter Meeting: Lincoln, Nebraska
May 19-20, 2017

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 21, 2017

Eligibility: The scholarship provides monetary support for attendance at chapter meetings. The applicant must be a chapter member in good standing or agree to join the chapter upon receiving the award. Preference will be given to first-time attendees who are music librarians or library school students in the Mountain Plains area: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming—and the Canadian province of Alberta. Preference will also be given to those who are presenting at the meeting and to librarians from the Mountain Plains area in their first five years of employment in a music library.

Applications directly from individuals and nominations from chapter members are encouraged.

Date of application:

Name of applicant:

Applicant’s email address:

Name of library school, employing library, or other affiliation:

Degree date or no. of years in position:

Name of nominating chapter member, if applicable:

Please describe the applicant’s achievements and interests in music librarianship (up to 200 words). Note previous MLA or MPMLA meetings attended, if applicable, and whether or not the applicant will be presenting at the MPMLA annual meeting. The applicant should also submit a brief budget for travel and lodging.

Please submit application by e-mail to:

Christopher Mehrens, Chair, MPMLA
Christopher.Mehrens@asu.edu
480-965-4267

Cartoon from Vancouver Co-op Radio

Newsletter Editor and Listserv Note:

Myrna Layton is the newsletter editor and manager of the MPMLA listserv. If you have any items of business or information to share with your peers in MPMLA, please send an e-mail to me at myrna_layton@byu.edu. I will see that all the members of the organization receive it!