Message from the Chair

Greetings from Tempe, Arizona. The new term has seen increased enrollment and I am enjoying meeting the new crop of music students. Things have been busy at the Music Library as we are gearing up for the closure of the tower of the main library for a three-year renovation project. Starting in January, we will be hosting two archivists (Child Drama and Chicano Research) and their related collections for three years, which I feel will bring another wonderful dimension to the Music Library, our services, and collections.

I want to thank Anita Breckbill and Carolyn Dow for hosting the Chapter Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. Also thanks to Woody Colahan, for his excellent work on the conference website and Janice Bunker for work as secretary-treasurer. The presentations were most informative and I was truly impressed by the quality of work and scholarship they represented. We have a terrific chapter and I always look forward to our meetings, the opportunity to learn new things, and to enjoying your company.

In January, I will be attending the annual MLA meeting in Portland, Oregon and hope to see you there. As is customary, our chapter meeting time will be used for an informal dinner and we will be in touch once the venue has been determined. Also, plans are afoot for the next chapter meeting which will take place May 17-19 at the University of Nevada, Reno. Many thanks to Amy Hunsaker for her willingness to serve as host.

The Reno meeting will be my last as Chapter Chair. At that time, I will transition to Past Chair and Myrna Layton will become Chair. We will also have the following positions to fill: Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Member at Large. If you are interested in serving, we will send out a call sometime in March with more details.

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The summer passed by relatively uneventfully for Steve Luttmann, in part because he and Oak didn’t want to board the dogs, both of whom are well into their golden years, and whose favorite two-legged friends were gone for the summer too.

Another reason was because he and his staff plowed through a donation of more than 10,000 LPs, finishing before the start of fall semester, and engaged in other cleanup projects in anticipation of the promised arrival of compact shelving for the basement storage area. We’ll see if that really materializes, of course. Steve is entering has last year as Faculty Senate chair (he’s term limited . . . but then, he was term limited in 2012, the last time he had a “last year as Faculty Senate chair” . . .)

and, because of the imminent retirement of his university’s president, he’s serving on the presidential search committee as well.

Despite all that, there will be some travel opportunities. He’ll be in Memphis for a couple of days in early November when his mother will be inducted into only the second group of Hall of Famers in the history of the high school (founded 1851) where she taught Latin for more 30 years and up to her death at the age of 81. That’s not a typo. Most of the Christmas holidays will be spent visiting friends and in-laws in Thailand and Laos, during which time the dogs will stay with friends who give them even more treats than they normally get at home. The next meeting of the Southeast Asian Directors of Music will be in Bangkok early next March, so he’ll try to wheedle himself onto the program of that organization again. He’ll probably miss MOUG/MLA because of the presidential search committee calendar, but tempest and storm won’t keep him from the next MPMLA meeting in . . . Reno, isn’t it?

I have a new job as Electronic Resources Librarian at Utah State University. Also, I will be presenting at the Society for American Music 2018 annual conference. My presentation title is "Viennese Ragtime: How Fritz Kreisler's Apple Blossoms reintroduced operetta to Broadway after World War I."
Laurie Sampsel – University of Colorado at Boulder


David Day – Brigham Young University (Music Special Collections)

Since our last report in April, the Opera and Ballet Primary Sources database [https://sites.lib.byu.edu/obps/](https://sites.lib.byu.edu/obps/) has grown from 37,000 items to almost 45,000. We purchased a major acquisition of mostly string and flute chamber music (with some choral and operatic works) that includes some of the following highlights.

- CPE Bach, *Herrn Professor Gellerts Geistliche Oden und Lieder mit Melodien*, Berlin, 1764
- Archangelo Corelli, Several early editions of his *Sonate da Camera* dating from 1708 to 1716.
- Carl Heinrich Graun's *Te deum laudamus*, Leipzig, 1757.
- Giambatista Martini (Padre) *Duetti da Camera*, Bologna, 1763.
- Johann Christoph Vogel, *De Démophon*, Paris, 1789/90.

And many other string duos, trios, and quartets by Asplmayr, Barbandt, Boccherini, Bréval, Bruni, Cambini, Campagnoli, Patoni, Pleyel, and Venti, most of which date from the late 18th century.

I need to get to work and add all of our holdings to RISM. Alas, that is a goal I have been trying to get to since forever . . . .

As items of personal news, this summer I completed a project that I have been working on in Brussels for about five years. The opera and ballet collection of the Monnaie at the City Archives is now beautifully boxed in archival boxes and labelled. I also was able to attend the Music Encoding Conference in Tours, France, IAML in Riga, the World Harp Congress in Hong Kong, and an MEI training workshop at the University of Virginia. Next week (Oct. 23-29) I will be off to China for ISMIR and Digital Libraries for Musicology.
Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University

A couple of pieces of news from the Music and Dance Library at BYU:

1. A wall was removed, making our former listening lab area into a more open study area, with glass walls separating this area from the media collection and help desk.

   Before (you see a wall and a door):

   ![Before](image1.jpg)

   After (what a difference a wall makes!):

   ![After](image2.jpg)

2. The Primrose Memorial Concert, which is held annually at BYU in honor of legendary violist William Primrose, was made extra special this year as we honored violist Alan de Vertich for his donation of materials to the Primrose International Viola Archive. A reception was held, in addition to the concert at which three of Alan’s former students, James Dunham, Paul Neubauer, and Nokathula Ngwenyama played, as well as a viola choir conducted by Alan de Vertich. Guests attended from places like Minnesta, Indiana, Washington, California and from as far away as Bogotá, Colombia.

   ![Guests](image3.jpg)

   Alan’s collection included scores that have been added to the circulating collections, and other materials that are now a part of Music Special Collections. Some items of interest in the collection: Alan, as a member of the White House Quartet, played for Lynda Johnson Robb’s wedding, so there is a photo of that occasion inscribed to him by the happy couple, as well as a letter of thanks from Lynda’s father, President Lyndon B. Johnson:

   ![Collection](image4.jpg)
And, Alan’s grandfather Wilhelm Winterfeld’s diploma from the conservatory in Prague, signed by the director, Antonin Dvorák:

Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University

We are happy to report that our sheet music collections are almost cataloged!

*Early Sheet Music (to 1920):* 11,535 (910 cataloged since spring 2017)

*Historic Sheet Music (1921-):* 9974 (1274 cataloged since spring 2017)

*Josef Bonime Sheet Music Collection:* 10,108 (370 cataloged since spring 2017)

*Paul Pollei Piano Collection:* 6036 (5329 cataloged since spring 2017)

On a personal note, I am now a MoTab has-been! 😊 I have rejoined the Utah Baroque Ensemble and am thrilled to report that I will be touring Deutschland (July 2018) in Bach country.

Carolyn Dow – Polley Music Library, Lincoln, Nebraska

Since MPMLA... I was one of the presenters at a two day course on music librarianship sponsored by the Swedish IAML Branch, held at Gothenburg University, just before the IAML congress in Riga. At IAML, I was elected vice-chair of the Public Libraries Section, but due to unforeseen circumstances, I’m serving as acting chair this year. I continue to serve as a member of the IAML Outreach Committee. And during the fall, I was appointed to the brand new IAML Publications Awards Subcommittee along with Anita Breckbill, and am serving as de facto chair.

In August, I presented at the Nebraska State Historical Society as part of a panel on Creative Nebraskans.

Needless to say, I spoke about musicians and composers, and the musical examples were of me singing. The presentation was in front of a live audience that mostly sat to one side, and not in the camera line, so I kept turning away from the camera to connect with the real people; it was filmed for local TV and YouTube distribution.
And coming up in October, I'm presenting a program called "Musical Tales of Terror". It's a music appreciation program, during which I'll tell the stories behind some of classical music's scariest pieces.

I've got program notes to write for three different musical organizations this fall, so I'm keeping busy.

I'm currently serving as the coordinator for MLA's Retirement Interest Group, so if you're retiring, please let me know.

Jeff Lyon – Brigham Young University

Jeff and family (wife Mami and two sons) are currently enjoying their visit with Mami’s family in Japan.

Sean Luyk – University of Alberta

Sean Luyk was appointed to the position of Digital Initiatives Projects Librarian with the University of Alberta Libraries, and began his new role October 1. While Sean was the Music Librarian at the U of A (since 2011), he worked on many notable digital projects, including the Walder G.W. White Sheet Music Collection and ERA Audio+Video where he is acting as Service Manager. Sean is the recipient of many research grants as a co-investigator with faculty members and has recently been successful in acquiring a SSHRC Insight Development Grant that focuses on exploring local music collections and collecting in Canada. His own research interests lie with the intersections between sound, listening, and knowledge-making in the humanities.

Beth Fleming – Oklahoma City University

Beth Fleming temporarily defected to the joint meeting of the New York and Atlantic chapters held at Rutgers University October 13 and 14. She presented her paper about the RapHistory competition based on the musical Hamilton, which was well received.

As an extra unexpected bonus for attending this conference, she also got to see her newly minted colleague (now cataloging specialist at Westminster Choir College) Joshua Henry present his first paper at his new chapter. He spoke on finding access to film scores and his presentation was also very well received.

Leichter Listening Library (the official name for the music library at Oklahoma City University) is being expanded this semester and the new addition is reportedly going to double the storage capacity currently available. Beth is, of course, everlastingly grateful for the promise of more space! At the moment, though, things are in an uproar of disarray....so all prayers for patience are very deeply needed and gratefully received!
Carol Jarvis – Contract Cataloger, BYU and University Utah

I don’t have any new news to report to you. I’m just cataloging on my computer all these books in weird-looking languages for an entirely different area of the Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University! But, since I can do the cataloging work on my computer and not onsite, I can tell you that for various reasons, I’m going to leave the area at the end of October, moving to (depending on job search outcomes) Atlanta, Georgia (or possibly Chicago, Illinois). So, I’ll keep you posted.

Anita Breckbill – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The faculty and staff at the Music Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln went on a summer field trip to Vermillion, South Dakota. The three of us took a day, piled in a Prius, and drove the three hours up Interstate 29 to the National Music Museum. We received a knowledgeable, enthusiastic tour of some of their 15,000 instruments, including the magnificent Amati cello, called "The King," the oldest cello known to survive (see picture). We also scoped out the Museum and the nearby University of South Dakota to see if it would be a good place for a future meeting of MPMLA. They are well set up to host meetings of our size, and are a value-added venue, what with their splendid strings, keyboards, guitars and kazoos.

Janice Bunker – Brigham Young University

As of September 25 2017, I am BYU’s Music and Dance AV Cataloging Specialist (I don’t know what my official title is)! For those of you who remember Doug Jacobson, I am his replacement, though I can’t promise to live up to his level of foodie-ness and sarcasm. Interestingly, I have only cataloged one AV item since I started, because I have been sucked into the mad scramble to finish cataloging sheet music, a project which has a distressing tendency to spread along the never-ending spectrum.

My summer was full of trips, including a two-week quilting vacation during which my cousin and I stopped in Lincoln and had lunch with Anita. Right after I returned to Utah from that trip, I drove back to Manhattan Kansas for another cousin’s wedding, but I did not have time to see Margaret or Thomas (sorry, guys). And I didn’t see the Colorado folks or the Idaho lady or the Oklahoma peeps. Maybe next year I’ll take a quilting tour of MPMLA’s area—the whole summer! Who’s in? The picture below is of the quilt I was working on during my quilting vacation (not done yet), which is made from the fabric I bought at MLA in Orlando when I forced Janet, Jeff, and Doug to go shopping with me!
**Amy Hunsaker – University of Nevada, Reno**

I am looking forward to hosting my MPMLA colleagues in May, which is a gorgeous time of year to visit the Sierras! UNR is currently building a new fine arts center which should be completed in time for our meeting. Our stunning library isn’t quite as new, but will still be less than a decade old in May (it was completed in the fall of 2008). In addition, the Reno area provides access to a variety of recreational and/or outdoor activities, and includes Lake Tahoe, one of the most celebrated and beautiful lakes in the world. The best part of this conference for me, however, will be the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by my colleagues! *Below: Lake Tahoe*

**Daryll Stevens – Colorado College**

The Seay Library of Music and Art at Colorado College ramped up this spring for a surprising (totally unsuspected) renovation. We turned over our work/media room to the Art Department so they could create a much-needed space for a digital lab. Stage one is almost complete—we relocated all our media to open stacks (on top of our compact shelving units) in our main room. We gave up one of our group listening rooms to the Music Department—to use as office space for our newly-hired piano technician and a soon-to-be-hired music tech specialist. Although initially a gut-wrenching exercise, all worked smoothly, thanks to everyone’s able assistance.

Stage two continues this summer (?); the back end of the room will be redesigned to allow for maximum space. We’re meeting with the architect next week to revamp initially proposed plans. On the whole we’ve lost space, but, it’s the digital age—and I’ve gotten in touch with the reality that this space doesn’t belong to the Seay Library, anyway—but to the College.

Oh, and I should mention that the main library has reopened following a year-long renovation-in-place. Nice gains for student spaces!
Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University

It has been a busy fall term, especially with the preparations for the remodel/renovation of the main library. Most of the collections are being removed (remote storage, other libraries, etc.) and the library is adopting a “fulfillment” model to get our users the materials they will need over the next three years.

My involvement in the process has been sorting through materials that have been stored over the years in our locked compact shelving area in order to free up space for the collections curated by the two archivists who will be coming over in January 2018 for a three-year period.

Beyond freeing up space in the Music Library, we have adopted a new library services platform Alma/Primo and this has made life interesting. The new online catalog has presented many challenges, especially when searching for music, so I am spending a lot of time helping people locate the materials they need as they become more comfortable with the system.

Finally, as the ASU School of Music is part of the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, last Thursday, October 12, 2017, we celebrated the first annual Herberger Institute Day: “A Day of Creative Exploration and Conversation.” From noon to four, the faculty and staff of the Institute offered 62 interactive creative workshops. I and three other colleagues represented the “ASU Library” by offering a four-part workshop titled Creativity in Dark Times. My part of the workshop was centered on the history of the protest song. At four, an al fresco meal was offered with over 400 students in attendance. I was a table host and the privilege of meeting many terrific students in a variety of arts-based disciplines.

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Freaky Feature

The Two Heads of Haydn

Franz Joseph Haydn was a very smart guy. In fact, many people of his time thought he was a genius. Now, phrenology, a head-obsessed discipline that was later discredited, was becoming quite popular in 1809, when Haydn died, reaching its zenith between 1810 and 1840. And some of Haydn’s “friends” had become phrenology followers; phrenology fanatics, even, with a fetish for heads.
Haydn did not time his death very well, for a war was going on, and Vienna was occupied by the troops of Napoleon. So the funeral was small, hurried, and drew less attention than might have otherwise been the case. This situation may have made it easier for two of Haydn’s phrenology-frenzied “friends,” who conspired with the grave digger to steal Haydn’s freshly buried head.

It was June. The weather was hot. The head, four days dead, had begun to decompose, and after being exposed to the air, it decomposed faster—they had no fridge for Haydn’s head! The “friend” charged with transporting the head to the hospital for dissection actually disgorged while en-route, so sickened was he by the state of the head.

By September 1809, when hopefully the head didn’t look or smell quite so nasty, one of the “friends” displayed the head at his home, to impress his guests. The head’s home was a custom-made black box with glass windows and a lyre on top. Inside, the head rested on a white cushion.

Fast forward to 1820. Prince Nikolaus II Esterházy, who had been Haydn’s patron, was reminded that Haydn had not really received the proper burial in the family plot that he had been promised. Therefore, the prince ordered the body exhumed in order to bury it again at Eisenstadt. Imagine his surprise—and fury—to find a Headless Haydn!

He immediately knew who had stolen the head—it had to be those two phrenology freaks! However, they were both freaky and sneaky, so they managed to keep the head out of the prince’s hands. For example, one of the “friends” hid the head in a straw-filled mattress, and had his wife lie on the mattress. When the prince’s search party wanted to search the bed, she claimed she was too ill to get up—menstruating, she said—so the men did not want to touch her.

Eventually, the “friends” gave the prince a skull, to appease him, but it was not really Haydn’s skull. (Since the head had become a skull, it was hard for the prince to recognize his old music master.) The prince gave the skeleton, which was really Haydn’s, and the skull, which he thought was Haydn’s, a proper reburial.

Time went on. The “friends” died. The prince died. The head of Haydn, now the skull of Haydn, was willed to this person, and then to that person, and finally found its way to Vienna’s Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in 1895, where musicologist Karl Geiringer liked to show it off to visitors. With the skull being displayed in this manner, word got out. And, clearly, if the one in Vienna was the true head, then the skull buried at Eisenstadt was not Haydn’s head at all. The “friends” had obviously tricked the prince!
Prince Nikolaus II Esterházy had a descendant who was not quite happy with the way things worked out for his ancestor, and for Haydn, who had been a pretty important individual to the family and court of Esterházy. Prince Paul, in 1932, created a beautiful marble tomb for Haydn in the Bergkirche at Eisenstadt, for the express purpose of reuniting Haydn’s actual skull with his actual skeleton.

But, alas, more skullduggery went on! And the occupation of Austria! And the war! It was not until 1954 that the skeleton and skull could be reunited. A proper ceremony was held, and all of Haydn’s remains were entombed together at Bergkirche.

However—what about that extra skull? Who did it belong to? It had belonged to Haydn’s skeleton for over a hundred years, so why not let him keep it? And so, were you to peak into Haydn’s tomb today, you would find not one, but two skulls: the two heads of Haydn.

Myrna Layton, inspired by Carolyn Dow’s *Musical Tales of Terror*

References:

R. “The skull of Joseph Haydn.” *The Musical Times* Vol. 73, No. 1076 (Oct. 1, 1932), pp. 942-943. *(The R. is how the author is given in the article.)*

Newsletter Editor and Listserv Note:
Myrna Layton is the newsletter editor and manager of the MPMLA listserv. Contact her at myrna_layton@byu.edu.

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MLA 2018

The Music Library Association will hold their 87th annual meeting at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon (January 31-February 4, 2018). MPMLA will hold its usual chapter dinner there as well—details forthcoming!

MPMLA 2018

The Mountain Plains Chapter will be meeting in Reno, Nevada in May 2018, hosted by Amy Hunsaker. Save the dates! May 17-19. More details will be announced as the date approaches!
Anita Breckbill – University of Nebraska (Lincoln)

Sept. 28. 2018: “I was looking around my office this afternoon and thought of a visual series for Conventional Title. We could each send in a picture of some corner of our office. Does this idea have legs, or am I just having a delusional afternoon? You decide.” The votes came pouring in—some people voted with words, some with pictures! With thanks to Anita for the idea, here are the office pictures, starting with Anita’s own contribution:

This is the zoo/action figure area of Anita’s office. Beethoven has been holding the yoga pose for several months.

Woody Colahan – University of Denver

Woody’s office leaves no room for doubt: he is a guy who is “into” music.

In one corner, lutes and guitars...

In another corner, Woody’s bamboo xylophones.

Stephen Luttmann – University of Northern Colorado

A clean desk

is a sign of a cluttered desk drawer.
Before cleaning:

Jeff and family (wife Mami and two sons) are currently enjoying their visit with Mami’s family in Japan.

After (some) cleaning (I found my missing pen!):
Janice Bunker – Brigham Young University

My Messy Office: The reason I have two pictures of messy offices is because I currently have two offices! The top photo shows the office that came with my previous job, which is still messy because I haven’t fully moved into the office for my new full-time job, pictured on the bottom.

Laurie Eagleson - University of Arizona

Here’s my corner with the penguin habitat, along with a closeup of the Penguin Orchestra.

“I like a lot of clutter on my desk. It gives me a place to bury my frustration and resentment!”
Amy Hunsaker – University of Nevada, Reno

My office is deep within the belly of the library so my “window” can offer any view I like (-;

“In the scope of a happy life, a messy desk or an overstuffed coat closet is a trivial thing, yet I find - and I hear from other people that they agree - that getting rid of clutter gives a disproportionate boost to happiness.” Gretchen Rubin

Daryll Stevens – Colorado College

My preferred view: my “opinion wallpaper.”

The second one is a scintillating view of my well-organized desk, under there, somewhere. The other half of my office is relatively clean, and welcoming. You’ll have to take my word on this.

Albert Einstein: “If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”
Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University

My desk is awash of materials that I am sorting through and there are archive boxes taking up most of my floor space, save three (well-used) recycling and trash containers, a book truck, and a filing cabinet. As you can see, I currently have a narrow path to get to my desk chair from my office door.

Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University
Beth Fleming – Oklahoma City University

Beth titled her submission: “Beth’s Disgraceful Office.”

Not a disgrace-

Looks fine to me!

Doesn’t this look normal to you?

Job security