Message from the Chair

Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University  Christopher.Mehrens@asu.edu

Salutations!

To quote that great bard Anonymous, “Spring is sprung, the grass is ris. I wonders where the birdies is?”

Well…as of late I have had quite a few birdies visiting me. In the area where I live in Arizona, we have been inundated with Gambel’s quails. They are ground dwelling and love to run from place to place. Unfortunately, given this proclivity, you have to be on your toes when driving home after a long day at work. Last year I had a family take up residence in my back yard and hope that I will be host to another family this year.

It was wonderful seeing all of you at the traditional chapter dinner in Portland and getting caught up with everyone since the chapter meeting in Lincoln. I am looking forward to the chapter meeting in Reno, Nevada and would like to thank Amy Hunsaker, Janice Bunker, and Woody Colahan for arranging the meeting and preparing the meeting website. I hope that you will be able to attend as I always look forward to these meetings. Please note that we have a chapter travel grant and there is a tab on the meeting website that will take you to the application form with terms of eligibility.

Finally, I will be concluding my term as Chair and will be “passing the fork” to Myrna Layton who will be assuming my duties in May. Consequently, we will be holding chapter elections and, in the very near future, we will be distributing an electronic form for nominations, so please consider running or nominating someone to serve the chapter.

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Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University

It has been a busy term. The tower of the Main Library has finally closed, has been fenced off and, for the next three years, work will take place to reinvent this “heart” of the campus. Part of the reinvention has included a staff reorganization process, as well as the creation of new positions to serve the new library vision.

As I write, there are nine searches underway for academic professionals to join our team.

For my part, I will be serving as the new lead for the Arts + Design + Architecture knowledge team (in addition to continuing as Head of the Music Library). This will be a two-year term with an option to renew. In the fall, I will be one of two librarians serving a Humanities Lab – “Food Lab.” We will be providing research support to faculty and students interdisciplinary projects. Exciting times!

Stephanie Bonjack – University of Colorado at Boulder

The Howard B. Waltz Music Library underwent a massive renovation during the summer and fall of 2017. We had our grand re-opening party January 23, 2018 and it was a success! Deans, stakeholders, and music donors all came to see our transformation. The highlight of the event was the attendance of local artist Lynn Wolfe, who painted Western Square Dance, a prominently featured work of art in the Music Library. His painting, created as his 1947/48 thesis project, anchors our new public seating area and provided the color palette for our finishes. Here he is, standing to my left, at 100 years old!

Our renovation created three student study rooms, diverse seating options for patrons, and a more intimate and inviting space. The back of house staff area includes a break room as well as ample workspaces. Here are a few pictures of our completed project:
Our public seating area:

Circulation desk, complete with built-in worktable and reflective student worker:

Students working in one of our group study rooms:

Patron tables with dividers for privacy:
Happy Library Head:

Laurie Sampsel – University of Colorado at Boulder

Laurie Sampsel has won server space for a digital humanities project sponsored by the Center for Research Data and Digital Scholarship at the University of Colorado Boulder. This pilot project with Reclaim Hosting will allow her to pursue a DH project using the Omeka platform that is related to the paper she will present at the chapter meeting in Reno titled, “Far from the Front: World War I Sheet Music from Colorado.”

Departures and Retirements:

Grace Haynes, former Outreach Specialist, landed her first Music Librarian job at Michigan State University, a position she started in June, 2017. You may have seen her at the MLA 2018 conference in Portland, where she presented as part of an instruction panel. Congratulations, Grace!

Anita Ortman, former Music Cataloging Specialist, retired from the University of Colorado Boulder after 30 years of service. Before she left, the Libraries honored her with the Marie and Martha Campbell Award for Staff Excellence. She will be missed!

A search is currently underway for the Outreach Specialist and we will be conducting a search for the Music Cataloging Specialist when that concludes.

Anita Breckbill – University of Nebraska at Lincoln

Anita Breckbill and Hannah Jo Smith show off a precious artifact. Come to the MPMLA Reno conference to hear all about it.

Carol Jarvis – Contract Cataloger, BYU

Carol has left our chapter, having taken a full time position at the Smithsonian, which will start on April 23. She and her husband, her cat Cyrus, and her cello, have relocated to Waldorf, Maryland.
Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University

We are getting all our music backlogs “bookmarked” for inventory and accountability purposes. One result is that we found more piles of sheet music...someday we’ll get them done!

Early Sheet Music (to 1920): 12,083 (548 cataloged since fall 2017)

Historic Sheet Music (1921-): 9960 (no new added)

Josef Bonime Sheet Music Collection: 10,113 (5 cataloged since fall 2017)

Paul Pollei Piano Collection: 6065 (29 cataloged since fall 2017)

Jeff Lyon and I attended a symposium in CA, “Max Steiner: Man and Myth” in late February. I co-presented a paper about ghostwriter composers for Gone with the Wind with Leslie Andersen, California State University, Long Beach.

Jeff and Brent Yorgason, a faculty colleague from BYU’s School of Music, presented two papers, Cataloging Max Steiner: A Corpus Study of Film Scores and Fanning out from the Fanfare: Max Steiner’s Theme for Warner Brothers. As you all know BYU has the Steiner collection and it was fun to see researchers from all other (a couple from England, a composer from Germany) come together to celebrate his legacy.

The whole crew:

My family and I got to travel to Hawaii during the Christmas break. It was beautiful.

And, finally, my dear mother died on January 29, 2018. I missed not seeing you all in Portland and appreciate your kind cards and thoughts.
Beth Fleming – Oklahoma City University

An update from Oklahoma City University:

At times, if your library is at 92% capacity someone gets the bright idea to add on to your existing space and you are rewarded with a new room and 36 new shelves.

Mind you, it is VERY LOUD while it is happening and extraordinarily funny at times, but in the end when everything is finally done, the extra space is nirvana!
Katy Levings – Oklahoma Panhandle State University

There isn’t a lot of news on the music front. The local Masons gave us money for more cabinets to hold our small ensemble music. I had to learn the alto saxophone for pep band, and now my bassoon won’t talk to me 😊 On a positive note, I won’t have to play the alto saxophone in the fall.

On the library front, McKee Library got combined with Counseling, Testing, and Tutoring. I painted three murals for our new Youth Room with the help of my mom, who is a professional sign painter.

Narnia:

We’ve introduced board games and a puzzle table to the library, and we’ve had three tournaments already. The next tournament is going to be Live Action Clue, planned by the students and involving every room on the first floor of our library.

Lisa Chaufty – University of Utah

I have some fun news: we hosted our first “Bach to the Future” party in the McKay Library yesterday (3/28). We had a contrapuntally-inspired cake,
a harpsichord at the ready,

and we gave out small gold Bach busts that we called “Boscars.”

Students received a Boscar for playing some Bach or Bach-inspired music at the event or completing some other Bach-related activities. We ran out of cake early and the students really enjoyed it. I guess cake is one way to bring all of the music students to the library. ;)

Sarah Perske – University of Denver

Sarah Perske supervises the Bonfils-Stanton Music Library at the University of Denver, and holds degrees in guitar performance (BM 2012) and composition (MM 2016) from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. Perske’s passions for contemporary classical music and for increasing the visibility of underrepresented creators led her to develop the Bonfils-Stanton Post-1945 Women Composers Index (bswci.wordpress.com) in collaboration with her colleague Andrea Copland in 2017. Copland and Perske presented their new index at the annual meeting of MPMLA in May of 2017, and have continued to refine this research tool to better serve patrons at the University of Denver. Perske is the recipient of several awards and recognitions for her work as a composer, and her works have been premiered by groups and individuals such as the Playground Ensemble, the Lamont Symphony Orchestra, the Keith/Larson Duo, and classical guitarist Laura Husbands. As a guitarist, Perske is particularly attracted to early music and enjoys finding creative ways of presenting this repertoire to modern audiences. When not composing, pouring over Renaissance
lute tablature, or assisting library patrons, Perske can be found promoting new music in the Denver area as a member of the contemporary classical group Nebula Ensemble.

[Website: www.sarahperske.com]

Rachel Wishkoski – Utah State University

2017-2018 is USU’s “Year of the Arts.” To celebrate, I organized a pop-up concert series in collaboration with Music Department faculty in order to recognize the contributions of music students to our campus community. The “Listen in the Library” series featured a different group of student performers each month, running from October through April. Performers were responsible for selecting their own repertoire (typically something in preparation for a higher-stakes performance later in the semester), and the approximately 30-minute, early-evening concerts took place on the 2nd floor bridge in the Merrill-Cazier Library.

Photo from the October concert

In programming the concerts, I aimed to include a range of musical styles, scheduling the USU Flute Choir, chamber ensembles from the String Division, the USU Clarinet Choir, a jazz student and faculty combo, music therapy students, and the USU Horn Choir. The capstone performance in the series will take place in mid-April and will feature the USU Chamber Singers. In total, over 70 student musicians will have been involved in the series once it wraps up.

Poster from the November concert

Program from the November concert

While the library regularly features students’ visual art and exhibits, “Listen in the Library” brought the performing arts into our space, making student accomplishments in music audible and visible to a community outside the concert hall.

UPR coverage of the first concert (October 2017) is available at [http://upr.org/post/usu-library-hosts-monthly-concert-series](http://upr.org/post/usu-library-hosts-monthly-concert-series)
Daryll Stevens – Colorado College

Here's my contribution. I'm including a pic of our iconic "eighth note bowling ball", a student's Intro to Music final project, from years ago....

Springtime descends! With its annoying pattern of one nice day in exchange for 5-6 miserable, cold, blustery ones battering us about. Recently, the Music Department celebrated our majors' capstone presentations; such a talented bunch presenting such a variety of projects and research! At the Seay Music Library we're finishing up the academic year as we prepare to launch our graduates into the practice of "adulting". O, joys and sorrows!

We're preparing for the usual campus summer festivals coming our way - and preparing for Stage Two of our continued renovation, which... this just in.... involves a total closure with relocation of "goods and services" for the duration. We'll move out right before next year's spring break, and hope for a conclusion by late July. Next year's smart goal thus reveals itself to me.

So looking forward to seeing you all in Reno! Maybe you can guess what I'll be asking our collective wisdom about!

Cheers,
Daryll

Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University

More renovations! This time not for looks, but for function. Our heating and cooling system is not reliable, and apparently, when they remove this great huge room that they have built in the middle of a walkway, the place will look as nice as it used to, and also the heating and cooling will work. It is going to take a few months. Fingers crossed that it will be worth it!

More construction is slated for later in the semester. The powers that be have mandated removing some of the shelving to create soft-seating areas near our north windows. The Ms, MLs, and MTs are going to be shifted to accommodate this seating project. Several types of furniture will be piloted to see which ones library patrons prefer.
During the 2017-2018 academic year, we completed our second year of a Fall Concert Series. These concerts are varied, but we do like to involve students, faculty and staff, and to feature music from our library collection. This time around, we enjoyed music from the guitar studio, including each of the participants taking a turn at playing the 1958 Stratocaster that is a part of the library’s musical instrument collection. The Music/Dance/Theatre majors provided a program of their favorite selections from the musical theatre oeuvre; and vocal performance majors performed opera selections. My favorite concert, though, was the one at which Janice Bunker and two other librarians played flute music from Special Collections, including pieces that have never been recorded before—so our recording of their concert becomes historically significant.

In February, we enjoyed our third year of Music Library sponsored concerts for Black History Month. We get good support for these concerts from our music students and faculty, but our most enthusiastic participants are our faculty members from Spanish and Portuguese. From their department chair to their graduate students, many of them are talented jazz musicians, so they are a natural fit for Black History Month. They are also very good at incorporating the concerts at which they perform into their syllabi, with either assignments or extra credit being tied to concert attendance. So we get a large, committed audience and great music! Win/Win! This has been a very successful concert series, and we are already planning for next year.

HBLL Fall Concert Series
Flute Music chosen from the Archives
November 29, 2017 @ noon in 1060 HBLL

Anton Bernhard Furstennau: Duetto III
from Trois Duos concertants pour deux flutes, op. XI
(performed by Nancy Jacobs & Janice Bunker)

Allegro moderato (7:30 mins)
Adagio cantabile (2:10 mins)

Etienne Francois Gebauer: Duo II
from Trois duos brillants et facile pour deux flutes, op. 24
(performed by Janice Bunker & Robert Maxwell)

Allegretto assai (5 mins)
Romance (1:40 mins)
Polonaise (4 mins)

Tranquille Berbiguier: Trio 2
from Drey grasse trios fur drey floten
(performed by Nancy, Bob, Janice)

Allegro tempo giusto (10 mins)
Adagio (3 mins)
Presto poco assai (9 mins)

Carolyn Dow – Polley Music Library, Lincoln City Libraries

Have piccolo...will travel. Carolyn Dow is only a little bit sorry to say she’ll be missing the Reno meeting because of performing in a flute choir at an Italian music festival in late May and early June. Then it’s off to Leipzig in July for the IAML congress. See you all in 2019?
Please join us on May 18-19 for MPMLA 2018 in Reno, Nevada, the World's Biggest Little City. The conference will be held at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center on the UNR campus. Our [web site](#) is up and running so that you can register for the conference and reserve your hotel room.

Amy Hunsaker, University of Nevada (Reno)

Announcements about the upcoming MPMLA meeting in Reno (May 18-19):

Our “reserved” block of rooms at the Whitney Peak Hotel in Reno will be available until April 16. You can get to our special rates from the Welcome tab on the meeting website: [https://sites.google.com/site/mpmla2018reno/](https://sites.google.com/site/mpmla2018reno/). The link is in the right-hand column just above the picture of Lake Tahoe. Also, don’t forget to visit the Registration tab and fill out the registration form, and use our handy PayPal link!

We have a fun session planned at the Reno Meeting for Friday afternoon. We are going to “appear” on a podcast with DJ Lukawarm (aka Luka Starmer)! Here’s the rundown:

1. Each person selects a “favorite” piece of music. It must be interesting or have an interesting or personal backstory. Any genre or color or nationality or type or instrument is acceptable.
2. Get or make a digital copy (MP3 or Wav file) of the piece.
3. Email the MP3 or Wav file to me ([janice_bunker@byu.edu](mailto:janice_bunker@byu.edu)) by May 2.
4. During the podcast, DJ Lukawarm will have us talk about our selections (i.e. the interesting-ness of it) and then he will play our selections.

So, go forth! Think about interesting music you love (not hard)! Find MP3 and Wav files! Email them to Janice Bunker!
Toscanini asked his granddaughter, Sonia Horowitz, which she would prefer to be when she grew up—a conductor like her grandfather, or a concert pianist like her father. “A conductor,” she answered unhesitatingly. “Why?” Toscanini asked her, obviously pleased by her choice. “Because,” was her succinct answer, “it’s a lot easier.”

- from *Listen to the Mocking Words*, compiled by David Ewen (1945) 77-78.

This situation caused John Byrom to compose a poem:

“Some say, compar’d to Bononcini, That Mynheer Handel’s but a ninny; Others aver that to him Handel Is scarcely fit to hold a candle. Strange all this difference should be ‘Twixt Tweedledum and Tweedledee.”

- from *Listen to the Mocking Words*, compiled by David Ewen (1945) 106.

If you thought Tweedledum and Tweedledee were just two silly characters created by Lewis Carroll, think again: the first time the two were referred to in print was at least a century earlier. John Byrom (1692-1763) penned words about them between 1720-1730.

You see, both Giovanni Bononcini (1670-1747) and George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) had taken up residence in London, and each had ardent fans who preferred the music of one to the other. By the time the two had been working in London for a decade, all of fashionable London seemed to have an opinion about which of them was the superior composer.

There once was a cellist named Leo Who played in a Beethoven trio; But his technique was scanty, So he played it Andante Instead of Allegro con brio.

- quoted from Elizabeth C. Moore’s *An Almanac for Music Lovers*
MPMLA TRAVEL GRANT

Chapter Meeting: Reno, Nevada
May 17-19, 2018

Chapter web page:
http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/eagles_on/mpmla/

Program Chair: Janice Bunker, janice_bunker@BYU.EDU (contact with presentation proposals)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 17, 2018

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:

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Newsletter Editor and Listserv Note:

Myrna Layton is the newsletter editor and manager of the MPMLA listserv. Contact her at myrna_layton@byu.edu.