Message from the Chair

Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University  myrna_layton@byu.edu

Thank you for your support as I move into my role as Chapter Chair. I really appreciate all of you, your friendship and your expertise as librarians and musicians that you so willingly share.

By now all of our academic libraries are well into the fall semester, busy helping our students to find the scores they need and to find the information they need for research projects. Our public libraries are also supporting individuals in their quest for information. And our CD and DVD collections in all types of libraries provide enjoyment, whether patrons are listening/watching for pleasure or to fulfill an assignment. We do good work.

The May chapter meeting in Reno was so great! It was wonderful to touch bases with all who could attend, and to learn from the interesting papers that the program provided. The podcast, thanks to Amy Hunsaker and DJ Luka Warm, was a lot of fun. In case there is anyone out there who missed hearing it, and would like to correct that oversight, here is the link: https://kwnkradio.org/2018/07/19/this-old-thang-live-the-national-music-librarians-conference/

We have events to look forward to when we can get together again: our annual chapter dinner meeting at the MLA conference to be held in St. Louis in February 2019, and next year’s MPMLA meeting which will take place in Salt Lake City in May 2019. I hope you will put these on your calendar, and plan to attend if possible.

It has been gratifying to see how our listserv helps us to support each other in our work. I have noticed some great discussions recently about firm order acquisitions and typical holdings in MPMLA libraries—we have shared good information with each other. We make a great team of music librarians!

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Stephen Luttmann – University of Northern Colorado

You know the old saying: No rest for the weary!
Or is that: No rest for the wicked? Anyway,
Steve Luttmann didn’t get to do any traveling this summer, not even to boring places, because his library was gifted with a new roof early in the summer, and in late summer – after a decade’s worth of unfulfilled promises – compact shelving for his music library’s basement. This more than doubles the library’s capacity for storing backlog items and unprocessed gifts, and will enable the relocation of bound periodicals to basement storage next summer as the circulating collections continue to eat up the remaining available growth space on the main floor. Of course, wouldn’t you know, donors have been popping up out of nowhere to lay plenty of claim on that storage space, so stay tuned!

Janice Bunker – Brigham Young University

In January 2018, I began a project to catalog 1,075 American Harp Society and World Harp Congress DVDs, created between 1988 and 2017. I created a cataloging template for my students to use and trained them to use it. They also move the DVDs from regular cases into locking cases and affix tattle tape and barcodes on the cases. I consulted with Janet Bradford and David Day to create an alphanumeric call number range for the DVDs. After my students
do the preliminary cataloging, I edit their work and add the call number and subject, genre, name, and work access points, which sometimes involves a lot of authority work for new composers, pieces, and harpists. To date, we have finished just over 1/3 of the project and I have made approximately 290 harp-related authority records.

And since that didn’t keep me busy enough, I decided to go back to school! I’m at the University of Utah as an organ performance and flute performance double major. It’s going to take at least 6 years, so we’ll see how it goes. One perk is that I get to see Lisa Chaufty and her cool library every day if I want to!

Every music student is now required to take the introductory music technology course. Course offerings have increased to accommodate; but, it was clear that our old technology classroom needed to be expanded to include more stations. The result is our new sound-proof classroom that can be divided into two smaller classrooms for simultaneous learning. The south classroom has seventeen stations, including one for the instructor. Each station includes Arturia KeyLab 61 keyboard controllers (located in trays beneath the desks).

The north classroom holds nine Kurzweil MP10F digital piano technology stations, and one instructor station. This classroom can also serve as an alternate piano lab for keyboarding classes.

Lisa Chaufty—University of Utah

We’ve had a busy summer at the McKay Music Library (located on the ground floor of the School of Music at the University of Utah). Beginning in late May, after all of the graduations were over, the construction of the new Sorenson Legacy Foundation Music Technology Studio began. And, finally, only two months behind schedule, construction is completed!
It took a while to find an affordable piano top solution to hold not only a stand for music, but also a computer keyboard tray and monitor. Prices for commercially-made units like this were well out of our budget. I was amazed that our carpentry shop on campus was able to fashion what you see here in a short amount of time.

When classes are not scheduled, the classroom becomes another public lab for student use. Faculty and students love the space and I expect more instructors will want to teach courses or one-shot technology sessions in the classroom as time goes on.

Just two days ago we were able to rehang our Gittins portrait of Marian Robertson. All that remains to complete the space is signage which is in process. We’re planning an open house for late October and I hope many students come to learn more about the classroom and enjoy the free food.

I’m very excited to host MPMLA 2019 in May here at the University of Utah. I have one teaser: on Friday, we’ll be in the School of Music and the McKay Music Library. Saturday we’ll be at the Marriott Library. Stay tuned for details!

Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University

It is hard to believe that it is already October and that classes are well away. Our current enrollment is pushing 110,000 and it usually takes me close to thirty minutes to get off the Tempe Campus. In my last chapter news contribution, I mentioned that I would be working as librarian to the University Food Lab. The lab is centered on re-envisioning food systems and many of the student projects involve making documentary films about the history of food in Arizona. I have shown students how to access our rich image collections in the University Archives and Special Collections.

In three days, we will be holding the Second Annual Herberger Institute for the Design and the Arts and, once again, along with other colleagues from the ASU Library, I will be offering a workshop for the students and faculty of the Institute. Last year’s workshop was about the history of protest songs and I also participated in a street fair with performances and al fresco meal on the mall. I am at the head of the table to the left with the pink tablecloth. The gentleman to my immediate right is Steven Tepper, Dean of the Institute.
Our theme for this year’s series of library workshops is Pieces of Light, Pieces of Color. My workshop is titled, “The Art of the Score: Nobility, Music, Illumination & Espionage during the European Renaissance. I will be talking about the work of Petrus Alamire and his work as a spy and counter-spy. They wanted the workshops to be “hands-on” so I will be handing out pieces of heavy parchment paper with printed music and text and music from one of the Alamire manuscripts (sans the illuminations). The attendees will be given art pens to create their own illuminations (initials, etc.).

One big life change for me is that I have bought a home in Scottsdale.

For the past nine years I rented a place in Scottsdale but, when the time came for me to renew my lease, my landlords told me that they wanted to move back into the rental and that I would have to move. At that point, I decided to put down roots and bought a place five minutes away from the rental. It has been entirely remodeled with all new appliances, etc. The photos are pre-move-in.

Unfortunately I have recently learned about the “joys” of new home ownership. With some of the worst monsoon storms for decades this past August, my back courtyard filled with water which eventually made its way to my sunken living room. Think wading pool. Fortunately my furniture was not damaged, but some of the famed art I was planning to hang that was on the floor suffered some wicking (albeit not too bad).

As I am not in a flood zone, my insurance didn’t cover the damage. Since then, I have been working with a flood restoration firm and, beyond removing the standing water, the room needed to be stripped down to the studs and I had to go through mold remediation. The contractors just finished getting the new drywall in place, and the next step will be getting the baseboards installed, getting the walls painted, and finishing work. One thing I did do was install a new sump pump system that removes 50 gallons of water per minute from the courtyard. We have had several severe storms since then and no flooding in the place (knock on wood). I am looking forward to moving my furniture back into the living room, hanging my art on the walls, and entertaining friends and colleagues in my new digs.
Melanie Cutietta & Ryan Seward – University of Colorado at Boulder

The Waltz Music Library at CU Boulder recently conducted a branch-wide inventory of items in our open stacks collection in 2018. A large portion of this project used a designated student workforce stationed in our stacks with laptops equipped with our ILS system, Sierra.

They individually pulled items and scanned the barcode into a blank Sierra field (IUSE3), which the CU Libraries had never before utilized. Training was such that inventory student workers were able to identify and pull certain material that had critical issues, such as severely damaged or incomplete items. The appropriate library staff member then further inspected these items. As sections of the library were finished, the Branch Operations Manager ran file lists to find discrepancies in records. Items not inventoried displayed a “0” instead of a “1” in the IUSE3 field, and were searched for and then set to the “missing” status. Ultimately, our catalog became more accurate and reliable as we fixed record errors not only with statuses, but also with locations and call numbers, as well as copy, volume, and edition numbers. Additionally, our shelving of materials became more accurate as we fixed damaged labels and call number errors. All told, over 80,000 individual items were inventoried during this process. This collaborative effort has already made our library more efficient and our catalog more reliable!

Amy Hunsaker – University of Nevada at Reno

A Fine & Performing Arts Librarian position has been created at UNR and I am now serving the Music, Art, and Theatre & Dance Departments on a full-time basis. This is the first time UNR has dedicated a full-time librarian to serve these units, and as one could imagine, there is a lot of work to be done. It has been amazing to have the time to focus completely on fine & performing arts collections and faculty, rather than trying to see to these needs in addition to the responsibilities required of my previous full-time role as Digital Initiatives Librarian. I miss running a digitization unit, but music librarianship has always been my primary passion. In addition, I have the opportunity to explore and learn about visual art resources—a whole new world! I’m looking forward to this new adventure and appreciate the support and camaraderie provided by the MPLMA.

Many of you are aware that two of my three kids (ages 20-22) were in a terrible car accident in August. They were driving to the Coast with their two friends (a brother and sister from England) when they lost control of the 4-runner while driving 65 mph and nose-dived over a 10-
foot embankment. It’s really a miracle they all survived. The driver (the brother from England) sustained minor injuries, but the three non-drivers were taken to a trauma center in Redding, CA where they each spent a week in the ICU and had various surgeries. I wanted everyone to know that they are all doing fine and recovering well. My daughter broke her back but she is past all danger of being paralyzed. My son has three titanium plates in his chest so he thinks he’s even more invincible than before. The English sister had internal injuries but is also recovering well. Her brother was able to get back to England in time to go to school. Their mum flew out and spent a few weeks with us until both kids were healthy enough to go back home.

Now that I have had the luxury of looking back on this experience, I’d like to share a few observations:

- A sense of humor can keep you sane in traumatic situations.
- We all need our moms. Even when you’re 20 years old and you know everything.
- No matter how much forest fire smoke you had in your town this summer—Redding had more.
- People are intrinsically good and will help you when you most need it.
- When it rains it pours—my husband had to go to the ER a few days ago to get his appendix out. Now I’m the only person in my house who can lift more than 20 pounds or run a vacuum.

Myrna encouraged me to write something about my kids for the newsletter. I am touched by the many emails and messages I’ve received from the MPMLA members who knew about the accident. THANK YOU for being supportive colleagues and friends.

Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University

Janet and Daron toured Germany with the Utah Baroque Ensemble in July. They sang at incredible venues including Thomaskirche in Leipzig (missed you IAML people by a matter of weeks), Freiberg’s Dom St. Marien, and the Frauenkirche in Dresden. They also spent a week visiting Austria, Liechtenstein and der Schweiz (where Janet’s paternal line resides).

Photo of Janet by the famous Bach statue in Leipzig:

Daryll Stevens – Colorado College

Short and sweet!

Beautiful fall! Renovation incoming.....more later.
Katy Levings – Oklahoma Panhandle State University

McKee Library is being condensed to its original 1952 footprint, so we will be reducing our collections and moving some to other buildings. There are plans to redesign and reallocate the rest of the building to other departments.

OPSU has invested in music scholarships to build the band and choir, so the university has a marching band again. Our band director is thrilled. We just had our first concert, and the hall was full. The checkout statistics for sheet music has been growing every year. I’m still only halfway through cataloging the music given to the library; I’m hoping to get most of the methods finished by the time the collection has to be moved. My other project is labeling all the AR books in our children’s collection. It’s slow going; there are about 8000 books we have found so far with an AR rating. The collection may also have to be moved.

The freshmen have discovered our vinyl collection and have been having a good time learning how to use the record player. We’ve been having an afterschool program come in every Wednesday afternoon for story time and to check out books. Our game night has gotten more popular; the D & D crowd have found us. I bring in a new game every week; so far, the classic games like Life and Sorry are the most popular, although the students like Sushi Go!, Exploding Kittens, and Roll for It! also. We have coloring pages out for the college students and for the kids who use our library, and they have both decided their works need to be hung up at circulation. It’s an interesting tableau. Our puzzle table has become popular enough that we are running out of puzzles. The students are planning a live action Clue game for the end of the semester, using the library as the board. We have also been given permission to get a fish tank, as requested by the kids and the college students. Lastly, we have made our faux library cat, TBD, an official member of the library, and he has graced all our flyers for library activities; he was given to us when the students repeatedly asked for a library cat.

Ellwood Colahan – University of Denver

University of Denver has been designated the official repository of MPMLA records. I have already received the archive of electronic records from Chapter Historian Laurie Eagleson and am awaiting the imminent transfer of paper records from Melissa Wertheimer, MLA Archivist.

University of Denver held a ceremony on April 2 to raise the flags of the Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapaho, Southern Cheyenne, and Southern Arapahoe Nations, which will hereafter be displayed on campus alongside the
flags of the United States, the state of Colorado, and the University of Denver.

This is in recognition of the fact the University of Denver is situated on the traditional homelands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples, who were driven from Colorado and forced to resettle on reservations in Wyoming, Montana, and Oklahoma. For some years DU has undertaken to engage constructively with founder John Evans's culpability in the Sand Creek Massacre. You can find the report of the John Evans Study Committee here: https://magazine.du.edu/campus-community/university-releases-report-founders-role-sand-creek-massacre/.

In recognition of this institutional history, the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Music Library has begun a systematic effort to collect and preserve recordings of historical and contemporary Native American music, beginning with the complete catalog of Canyon Records.

Matthew Stock – University of Oklahoma

At the Fine Arts Library we’re continuing to participate in the city’s 2nd Friday Art Walk series. In September we hosted the Hispanic Art Showcase: https://libraries.ou.edu/content/grant-fine-arts-library-supports-community-engagement-through-hispanic-art-showcase https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10156522187908913&type=1&l=5629479580

In October the School of Visual Arts will be taking over for an evening of experimental works. https://www.facebook.com/events/1958896354402804/

In my role as the librarian for the College of Architecture I've been involved in a collaboration between the College and the University Libraries to develop an exhibition devoted to Bruce Goff and his students, the American School of Architecture.
The physical exhibition will remain in the main library through next summer.

The online companion may be seen at: https://renegades.libraries.ou.edu/. An archive is also being created.

Eric Harbeson – University of Colorado at Boulder

* At long last, my edition of John Eccles' "The Judgment of Paris" (1702) has been published by AR, and will be hitting stands any day now.
* I received a ceremonial appointment as a Law Library Fellow in the CU Law Library.
* I did several presentations at the Miami University Copyright Conference, which focused specifically on music copyright, including one on the just-passed Music Modernization Act (MMA). I have several planned articles in progress on the MMA coming soon.
* I participated in the Triangle Scholarly Communications Institute in Chapel Hill last week, where I and a small team of copyright enthusiasts spent the week developing a plan for the problems with libraries and restrictive licensing. We’re continuing our work and hope to start announcing some of the fruits of our work sometime in the not-too-distant future.
* I'll be a featured speaker next week at Illinois State University's Open Access Week.
* I'll be attending the World Intellectual Property Organization's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights meeting in Geneva again at the end of the month, where I'm working with other library and archives advocates to lobby for a treaty on exceptions to copyright.

Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University

This fall, our library wanted to offer incoming freshmen more than the half hour tour of the library that they had been getting as a part of student orientation. They decided to have an activity night in the library, with something that students could opt to do on each floor (our library has five floors that are open to the public) and let them earn coupons for snacks through their participation in the various events.

Activities ranged from virtual reality through art projects (a post-it note mural), a photo booth, and several escape rooms, including one that used the Primrose International Viola Archive (PIVA) as the venue. This escape room was an augmented reality game that the HBLL online learning team put together, incorporating library iPads for participants to scan objects in real space (targets) that would then reveal another clue to the puzzle.

OPEN ACCESS
The organizers asked for live music to be played in the Music Library. I was surprised by the request, because I was worried about securing permission from library administration, but the organizers saw to that, so we were good to go.

Adam, one of our student employees who is a violist, drafted friends to participate. We had solo organ, solo piano, solo guitar; string duos, trios and quartets, and even a jazz combo.

In the picture, you can see a few students studying behind the jazz combo, but you can’t see the large crowd they attracted in front of them! Sometimes the audience was comprised of those who were waiting for a turn in the PIVA escape room; sometimes, students came intentionally to hear the music; sometimes, they were coming to study and just happened upon the live music. In any case, audience members were receptive, it was a lot of fun, and we were very happy with the outcome.

The Mountain Plains Chapter will be meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah in May 2019, hosted by Lisa Chaufty and the University of Utah.

Save the dates! May 16-18. More details will be announced as the date approaches!

Join us in St. Louis, MO February 20-24, 2019 at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, for a few days of Music Library immersion.

Early bird registration is open, and ends on January 15, 2019.

Our chapter will meet for a Thursday evening dinner meeting as per tradition. This event will be organized by Woody Colahan, our chapter vice-chair.
With November 11 fast approaching, Veteran’s Day in the US and Remembrance Day in Canada, war and refugees are called to mind. Some music librarians may have missed the release earlier this year of an interesting CD by Canadian jazz vocalist Sophie Milman (and others) called “Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of World War II.”

The songs were written (and sung) by ordinary Jews in the Soviet Union, and collected by Soviet ethnomusicologist Mosei Beregovsky during the 1940s. As the political tides changed, Beregovsky was arrested and sent to Siberia, and his archive vanished. Beregovsky, who died in 1961, thought that all this work had been destroyed.

But, hurray for library backlogs, such was not the case! In the early 1990s, some unmarked boxes were opened in the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine—and they turned out to be Beregovsky’s missing archive of the songs he had collected.

The now-identified archive sat unused in the library—until 2010, when Dr. Anna Shternshis of the Anne Tanenbaum Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto began her study of Beregovsky’s archive. Her original plan was to write a book, but as she looked over the materials, she decided that these were songs, and they needed to be sung and heard. She decided a CD must be produced.


The Times of Israel article includes links to video recordings of some of the songs on the CD: https://www.timesofisrael.com/album-yiddish-glory-gives-voice-to-once-lost-soviet-jewish-wwii-songs/

Sample page from the Beregovsky Archive, Vernadsky National Library
MPMLA TRAVEL GRANT

Chapter Meeting: Salt Lake City, Utah
May 16-18, 2019

Chapter web page:
https://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/mpage/mpmla_members

Program Chair: Janet Bradford,
janet_bradford@byu.edu (contact with presentation proposals)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 17, 2019

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:

Myrna Layton
Chair, MPMLA
Performing Arts Librarian
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah
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801-422-4334

Hopefully, none of our libraries:

Cartoon satirizing the short hours and difficult staff of the Astor Library (Forerunner of NYPL, which opened Jan. 9, 1854) from Life magazine.

Newsletter Editor and Listserv Note:

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