Message from the Chair

I don’t know how the rest of you feel, but it has seemed like a very long winter to me! I am delighted to enjoy a little more sunlight, feel a little less chill in the air, and see the beginnings of tulips and daffodils popping up in the soil. I even saw some students sitting outside soaking up a bit of sunshine on the first day of Spring—a new development after a long, cold winter!

MLA was wonderful this year, and it was especially nice to get together with some of you at our chapter dinner in St. Louis. The setting at Landry’s Seafood Restaurant was great, with our own “room with a view”—of the display of fire over the water. Kind of random, but beautiful! Thanks to Woody Colahan, our chair-elect, for his work in arranging that.

There are some exciting things happening in the library world! For example, the California decision about Elsevier is an interesting development to watch. I hope the stand they are taking will have an impact on the rising costs of academic journals. Also of interest is the MLA announcement about the Public Domain Song Anthology: Popular Music for Study and Performance with modern and traditional harmonizations by David Berger and Chuck Israels. It is good to see our organization make this contribution to Open Educational Resources.

We are getting very close to this year’s MPMLA meeting at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on May 16-18 2019. I am looking forward to seeing old MPMLA friends, and to meeting some of you who have recently joined our chapter for the first time. We have a great group of music librarians, and our papers are always very interesting. If you are sitting on the fence about attending, please know that you are very welcome, and we hope you will come!

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Carolyn Dow – Polley Music Library, Lincoln NE [retired]

I retired as manager of Lincoln City Libraries’ Polley Music Library. My last day at work was the end of November 2018.

I celebrated my last day at the library by going to Jamaica the next day for sun and relaxation. Back in Lincoln for the winter, I'm still making music, scheduled around snow removal this snowiest winter of all time. (I sure picked the right winter to retire). Planning ahead, I'm playing in a flute choir at the same music festival in Italy as I did last year. And I plan on attending IAML in Krakow this summer.

Katy Levings – Oklahoma Panhandle State University

We’re trucking along at McKee Library. The library has been hosting the university after school program on Wednesdays, a craft program on Tuesdays, and therapy dog reading sessions on alternate Thursdays. We had a Sorry tournament last month; next month there will be an UNO! Tournament. One of our student workers is creating a McKee Library coloring book.

I'm working on cataloging saxophone solos (~900 or so). Our computer lab is being moved to another room; our main collection is being moved into the vacated lab space; our youth collection is being moved to our AV room; and a lounge is being put into the vacated youth room. I was given an opportunity to teach bassoon this semester; my student and I play duets in the library lobby once a week. I will also be playing bassoon for our choir’s big piece this semester, Mass of the Children. Lots of tenor clef and many different meters – I haven’t decided how I feel about it yet. I’m including our tournament flyer, featuring our faux library cat TBD.
Dawn Combe – Regis University

Hello, I am Dawn Combe, Research and Instruction Librarian at Regis University Library, Denver, and library liaison to the Regis Music Department. The music department has requested that Cairie Riney and I assist in the establishment and organization of a Music Faculty Library made up of mostly scores with some books, periodicals, and “archival” materials for faculty use only. I have contacted some of you, wonderful Music Librarians, for recommendations on tools and practices. Thank you! We are attending the MPMLA meeting to gather more ideas and inspiration for this project in progress. I look forward to meeting you all.

Cairie Riney – Regis University

Hello, I’m Cairie Riney, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian at Regis University. I am the sole cataloger for the institution and have the opportunity to catalog many different types of materials. Dawn and I were asked to set up the Music Faculty Library, which houses ~10,000 scores. Our goal is to set up procedures for work study students to perform the majority of the processes so as not to overwhelmingly increase our workloads. We are excited to attend the conference and pick some of your brains!

Regis Library & the Recorder Music Center – Denver, Colorado

Regis University’s Dayton Memorial Library is home to The Recorder Music Center, a collection for those interested in research on the instrument. The Collection contains music for the recorder and other early instruments, periodicals, and books as well as a recorder and early wind and string instrument collection. To learn more, please see our Recorder Music Center website.
Laurie Sampsel – University of Colorado Boulder

The third edition of Laurie J. Sampsel’s *Music Research: A Handbook* was published by Oxford University Press in January 2019. It is available from OUP at https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/music-research-9780190644505?cc-us&lang=en&. This is the first edition available as an e-book rental from https://redshelf.com/, and I’m pleased that students have more options. Over 250 entries were added, updated, or deleted from the second edition. A new chapter on writing was added, while the chapter on music directories was cut. Additionally, some chapters were re-ordered, as suggested by reviewers. Music research, like all research, is moving quickly with new approaches, online tools, and methods such as digital humanities. This new edition also includes topics such as institutional repositories, ORCID identifiers, and much more!

I’m looking forward to seeing you in May!

Linda Bagley – University of Colorado Boulder

At the end of last October, I started as the new Music Cataloging Specialist for the Music Library at CU Boulder. For those who knew Anita Ortman, I am her replacement (although with a slightly revised job description).

My duties include doing original and complex copy cataloging, reviewing reports from Backstage and doing database maintenance; and this semester I joined the NACO-Music Project. I came here after completing not one, but two master’s degrees at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; I have an M.M. in violin performance, and an M.A. in Library and Information Studies. I am excited to be living in Boulder after growing up in the Midwest. The winter weather has just been wonderful comparatively, the sunshine is great, and there are so many parks to explore! I’m also looking forward to meeting everyone at MPMLA and getting involved with the chapter!
Anita Breckbill – University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Music Library at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln had three in-stacks display cases mounted last week to show off our collection of south- and southeast-Asian instruments. One display case contains strings, one flutes, and one oboes and brass. Displays in the stacks gives a different sense of discovery for these instruments.

Ellwood Colahan – University of Denver

This past February saw the opening of the Joseph and Loretta Law Institute of Arts and Technology at the University of Denver. The Institute is devoted to promoting global multi-cultural integration and innovation in new music, showcasing the ability of technology to enhance artistic creation, and providing resources to gifted and creative emerging talents. As part of the inaugural activities, the first Denver International Electronic Music Festival was held from February 15-18. The Festival presented concerts and performances including the North American premiere of Kung Fu Organ and the American debut of renowned Electone soloist Pang Bo. The Festival also included an International Electronic Music Competition.
Lisa Chaufty – University of Utah

Hello! Please join us May 17-18 for MPMLA 2019 at the University of Utah, hosted by the McKay Music Library. Visit the conference website for logistical information.

You may have noticed an enigmatic entry on the program mock-up . . . What is “The Dance”?

Carly Schaub (in green) and Dance Balletti at an event for the Shakespeare Folio exhibit in SLC (2016).

Before dinner on Friday, historical dance expert, Carly Schaub, director of Dance Balletti, will teach us the steps for two of the mainstays of Renaissance dance: the pavane and galliard.

If dancing is not what you desire, you can join the Renaissance band on any instrument or voice of your choice. We’ll have extra recorders, flutes, a bass viol, percussion, and two harpsichords if your own instrument does not travel well. Music for The Dance will be uploaded to the conference website by April 16. And, April 16, coincidentally, is the last day to reserve your room at the conference rate. I hope you can join us!

Emma Ray Riggs McKay Music Library (view toward Reading Area), University of Utah School of Music

Kathy Essmiller – University of Oklahoma

Kathy Essmiller has joined Oklahoma State University’s Edmon Low Library as the Academic Liaison to the Greenwood School of Music. Kathy’s principle instruments are trumpet and piano. She holds a BME from Kansas State University, an MM in trumpet performance from the University of Central Oklahoma, an MS in educational technology from Oklahoma State University, and is working...
toward completion of a PhD (educational technology) at Oklahoma State University.

Kathy's research interests include diversity and equity issues in the open movement, leveraging Web 2.0 resources to facilitate accessible arts learning experiences, and definitions of creativity in industry vs. the arts. Kathy looks forward to meeting face to face at conference all of the great people she has met through email!

Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University

Everything is well in Arizona. That being said...the other day I had a genuine fright. I was working on my computer in the master bedroom and, all of a sudden, the silence was broken by a series of loud knocks on the sliding glass door that leads to the courtyard to the rear of my place. My workstation is situated in such a manner that my back is to the door.

At first, I thought that someone had scaled the wall. I abruptly jumped up, but when I investigated the situation, no one was there. I returned to working on the computer and after some time had passed, again the loud knocks.

My mind immediately tuned to thoughts of Poe, albeit with significant differences: it was a bright morning, and not “a midnight dreary”; although I was “weak and weary,” I definitely was not nodding, “nearly napping”; and the knocks were forceful, and could not be described as gentle “rapping.” Slowly turning around this time so as to not frighten what was out there, it turns out that I indeed had a visitor, avian in nature, but definitely not a raven. Further, the visitor was not alone. I have another family of Gambel’s Quails (roo, hen and chicks). The hen was the culprit. Since that time, they come on weekend mornings to visit me. The hen continues to knock, but they are not invited in.

At the library, I continue to muddle through with building the collections to support new faculty, providing research assistance, and various outreach activities. I am also working on a book proposal, which I hope to submit to an editor in the fall.

I am sorry that I missed the national MLA meeting this year – only the second since I

The courtyard is enclosed (see pictures) and the only way to access it, is by going through my house; either via the living room or the master bedroom.
joined the MLA in 2000. Some of you might have heard that I was on call to have abdominal surgery around the time of the meeting (possible tumor). My insurance provider had to approve the procedure and surgery center, which delayed things. This past Friday (March 29), I went under the knife. Everything went well. Please rest assured that I WILL NOT pull an LBJ and show off the scar.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the chapter meeting in May.

Lucinda Johnston – University of Alberta

I thought I might send a brief blurb to introduce myself, though I don’t really have a lot to say! I graduated with my MLIS last June from the University of Alberta, and have been the music and drama librarian here since last August. My educational and professional background is in music, but the research and librarianship is an ongoing and exciting challenge. I just completed the MLA course Music Collection Development, and right now my biggest focus is on figuring out how to move forward with our CD/sound media collection. It is looking like I will not be able to make it to the MPMLA gathering in Salt Lake City next month, but I’ll remain optimistic for a few more weeks...Looking forward to meeting colleagues regardless at some point in the future!

Daryll Stevens – Colorado College

The Seay Music Library has just survived stage two of our renovation, which involved having our collection moved to offsite storage. We are happily ensconced in a music classroom down the hall, from whence we offer our usual competent, friendly service. Kudos to all of us!

In spite of my nightmares about forgetting that one really important thing, things are progressing smoothly. And, construction is ahead of schedule, at the moment. We look forward to reoccupation in late July, early August.

Retrieval of items is working fairly well, but we’re always discovering little blips that we hadn’t considered.

Otherwise, spring time in the Rockies rolls! Fortunately, our downtown experience of the bomb cyclone was minor. Colorado College did close for a day and a half -- but I think that’s only because the storm coincided with our Spring Break.
A view of Colorado College Seay Music Library renovation in progress...complete with Koi pond trough behind us—well actually, they think they’re going to provide floor outlets, instead, but I think we’ve changed our minds.

Ryan Seward – University of Colorado Boulder

Originally from the North Central Plains of Texas, I received undergraduate degrees in music from University of North Texas and The University of Texas at Arlington before relocating to Colorado in 2012.

Shortly after moving to Colorado, I began a nearly five-year tenure at Denver Public Library where I spent the majority of my time as the coordinator of a STEAM-centric after school program at a branch library in Northeast Denver, as well as a library and archives assistant at the Western History and Genealogy Department, a special collections department focused on resources pertaining to African-American History, Western History, Genealogy, and the Conservation Movement in the Rocky Mountain West.

While completing my library school practicum at the Clyfford Still Museum Archives and Library in Denver, I was offered the Outreach Specialist position at the Howard B. Waltz Music Library at University of Colorado Boulder and started in July 2018. As Outreach Specialist I am responsible for outreach, communications, marketing, and events, as well as library signage and displays.

I hold an MS in Library Science from University of North Texas and outside of my work in libraries, I am active as a percussionist, improviser, and composer and enjoy frequenting Denver’s record stores, book stores, movie theaters, and museums. I look forward to being involved with the chapter and to meeting everyone in Salt Lake City next month.
Libraries are always looking for new ways to foster diversity and inclusion in our collections, services, and programming. Here at the Howard B. Waltz Music Library, we recently partnered with the CU Boulder College of Music, the college’s Diverse Musicians’ Alliance, the American Music Research Center (AMRC), and the Museum of Boulder to host an event on Saturday, March 9th in the Music Library entitled Persevering Legacy: A Socially-Engaged Workshop and Performance, “a catalytic collaboration that ... elevate[ed] stories of historically marginalized female African-American composers with social activism.”

This event was situated and envisioned within the broader celebration of Women’s History Month and came to fruition out of the collective visioning of College of Music Community Engagement & Social Innovation Coordinator, Katie Skayhan, Museum of Boulder Community Programs Coordinator, Megan Moriarty, Director of the AMRC, Susan Thomas, and College of Music Associate Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy and chair of Diverse Musicians’ Alliance, Alejandro Cremaschi.

After Katie began reaching out to various community organizations, she met with Megan at the Museum of Boulder to discuss potential opportunities to collaborate. Out of their discussions organically stemmed the idea to host a workshop on campus, modeled after the Museum of Boulder’s Inclusipedia Monthly Editing Sessions, wherein participants learn how to research and write a basic Wikipedia article, as well as how to add and edit pages on Wikipedia, with a focus on women and people of color.

Shortly thereafter, Katie and Alejandro met with Susan in the AMRC and their conversations led Susan to begin discussing the Helen Walker-Hill Collection, “a unique collection of rare and seldom performed musical compositions by female African-American composers.” Immediately, Katie saw an opportunity to combine both the workshop...
and a performance of selected compositions from this collection into one event and approached Head of the Howard B. Waltz Music Library, Stephanie Bonjack, and Music Library Outreach Specialist, Ryan Seward, to consult on information resources pertaining to female composers of color, as well as to request the use of the Music Library as the location for the workshop and performance. Stephanie decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to try something new in the Music Library space, as performances had never been held there before.

A call for performers was then put out which placed importance on both the performers’ personal statements on why they wanted to be involved with the performance and on elevating the voices and presence of diverse performers. Ultimately, 15 undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Music, both affiliated and unaffiliated with Diverse Musicians’ Alliance, were selected to perform the works of composers Valerie Capers, Regina A. Harris Baiocchi, Margaret Bonds, Dolores White, Dorothy Rudd Moore, and Valerie Coleman. Additionally, one student was selected to help coordinate the performers and to facilitate the performance.

Katie received an Inclusive Excellence Award from the CU Office of Academic Affairs in order to fund the event, and it was both well-received and lauded by the nearly 40 people in attendance, including students, family members of students, faculty, donors, and community members. It was an incredibly successful first for the Music Library, and we hope to help encourage and foster these types of collaborations again in the future!

-- Ryan Seward
Nice to see so many of our chapter members in St. Louis, MO in February!

Here is a photo of the fire show we watched out the window of Landry’s Seafood Restaurant during our Chapter Meeting.

Next year in Norfolk, VA! Plan ahead to attend!

The Mountain Plains Chapter will be meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on May 16-18 2019, hosted by Lisa Chaufty and her staff at the McKay Music Library of the University of Utah.

NPR draws our attention to a new CD by Jeremy Denk titled c.1300-c.2000. NPR report Tim Huizenga writes:

“Remember those Music History 101 courses – the ones that stacked centuries of composers into one semester-long sandwich? The deep-thinking pianist Jeremy Denk has compiled something similar on his new double album, where he blithely traces 700 years of music, from sparsely arranged medieval songs to sonatas by Mozart to modern études by Glass and Ligeti. These "sonic snapshots," as he calls them, tell the story of how harmony and counterpoint — two of music's basic building blocks — evolved over the centuries. Compelling performances, fascinating liner notes and no quiz at the end.”
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
myrna_layton@byu.edu
801-422-4334

Funny, not funny:

Newsletter Editor and Listserv Note:

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