Message from the Chair

Hello fellow music librarians! Here we are, already halfway through fall semester. Is it just me, or are the months racing by for everyone?

It was so good to get together with many of you in May this year at the University of Utah, where Lisa Chaufty and her helpers from the McKay Library staged a wonderful MPMLA 2019 conference. We had many first-timers there, and we hope they (you!) will plan to join us again in the future! Our next chance to get together will be at MLA 2020 in Norfolk, Virginia. Once again, our vice-chair, Woody Colahan, will find a restaurant venue for us to have a dinner meeting. Something to look forward to in late February 2020!

Plans are already in place for MPMLA 2020, which will take place in Norman, Oklahoma. Matt Stock and his helpers are getting ready—see more about that on page 11, and plan to attend if you can!

I am sure that many of you read with interest, as I did, the article in The Atlantic about what students want from libraries. Surprise, surprise—they just want a regular old library with books and stuff: “a quiet place to study or collaborate on a group project, the ability to print research papers, and access to books.” Students also mentioned that they like having librarians to help them find resources and to navigate databases. So, they seem to like us just as we are—without all the renovations and cool new spaces that many of us are up to our eyeballs in recently. Nice to be appreciated for our basic services!

In closing, I wanted to share ideas expressed by Camila Jenkin in the Spring 2019 issue of Library Journal. She said that librarians can and should foster a “sense of belonging and ownership in the academic library” so that each of our patrons feels comfortable there. (Spring 2019: 25-28 for full article.) Let’s go forth and do that! I wish all of us success in all our assorted library endeavors, even as the year 2019 rushes to completion!

Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University  myrna_layton@byu.edu

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Suzanne Moulton-Gertig – University of Denver [retired]

Hello to all in MPMLA from New Hampshire! There is scholarly life after retirement, after all.

Two years ago I went to an Amy Beach Conference at the University of NH. It turns out that Mrs. H.H.A. Beach (aka Amy) (1867-1944) was born in NH and all her papers, etc., ended up at the UNH Archives. One of the other musicologists at the conference, Liane Curtis, asked me if I thought that a project could be done to make the diaries available remotely. You see where I’m going here. Anyway, as it happens, I’ve become friendly with the Head of Archives, Bill Ross, who hosted the conference. As a result, I’m hand typing her diaries (for they are too fragile to scan) so they can be converted and uploaded eventually to the library database and made available through the university library’s website to those Amy Beach scholars and fans throughout the country. Amy Beach’s handwriting is just abysmal, so it’s a real challenge to figure out just what her scrawl sometimes really says, but I’m running into great references in her diaries to Edward MacDowell & his wife, composers like Sowerby & Chaminade, and, to my delight, the harpist/composer Marcel Grandjany!

Matt Stock – University of Oklahoma

We’ve had big changes at the university lately—three presidents in the last two years. The American Organ Institute (which we toured the last time MPMLA was in Oklahoma) is slated to be closed at the end of the fiscal year. Several people were let go last month. Three, including the archivist, are being kept on for a year “to wrap things up.” For more information read this article, or visit the Save the AOI Facebook page.

The good news is that the Oklahoma City Philharmonic performed Jack Kilpatrick’s American Indian Serenade on their season opener, September 14th.

Cherokee composer Jack Kilpatrick
This was part of the collection I spoke about at the last meeting which I discovered in a School of Music storeroom.

The attached photo is myself, Music Director Alexander Micklethwaite, and Christina Giacona at the dress rehearsal. Christina spent the summer as a Dale Society Fellow in our Western History Collection working with the Kilpatrick collection and worked with the Philharmonic on creating a new score and set of parts.

So I spruced it up!

And now that I look at it, I should have added “373 _ _ Mountain Plains Music Library Association”!!

The rest of my life is fun for me but boring to read about: working at BYU with all kinds of music recordings; taking the train up to U of U every day for classes (and visiting Lisa, Spence, and Garrett in the McKay Music Library); playing in the U’s Campus Symphony and Runnin’ Fl’UTES (flute choir); taking organ lessons and getting to play the big awesome organs in Wasatch Presbyterian and Libby Gardner concert hall and the small awesome organ in room 278; hanging out with my hubby and sons (tall 14-year-old, not-so-tall 18-year-old, and in-between 20-year-old) and my grandsons Liam and Owen (3 & 2) and texting funny things to the other kids; quilting with my sewing buddies. I also get to hang out with my mother, whom some of you will remember from MPMLA in Arizona. She is slower and wobblier, her memory is not so good, but she is still the cheerful, delightful person y’all go to know. And when I ask what she’s going to do today, she says “As little as possible!” 😊

Janice Bunker – Brigham Young University

I don’t know that I really have anything to say, but I did a fun thing on September 21, 2019. As I was merrily cataloging World Harp Congress DVDs from our International Harp Archives, I found one which featured a presentation by... SUZANNE MOULTON-GERTIG!!! [retired member of MPMLA]

The video was done in 2005, but watching her brought back a lot of great memories. And when I was entering her name in my 700 field, I found that her record was very sad:
Lisa Chaufty – Emma Ray Riggs  
McKay Music Library, University of Utah  

We have a few news items. First, we've started a musicianship/theory tutoring program through the library. This is a completely free service to students and is one of our student success initiatives.

Then, we also just had a "Three B's Birthday Party" last week. However, the "three B's" were not Bach, Beethoven and Brahms... they were Hildegard von Bingen, Amy Beach, and the Boulanger sisters (with Lili and Nadia that makes four B's--the more, the merrier!). We had a YouTube playlist for students, and had three cakes!

Here are a few photos, of the party poster:

and one of the cakes!

Our next community birthday party will be in March when we celebrate Bach again.

Arianne Smith-Piquette – CKUA Radio Music Library, Edmonton, Alberta  

I had the great pleasure of working with two students as part of the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) this summer: Joseph Hodgson, currently enrolled in Master of Library & Information Studies at University of Alberta, and Sarah Taylor, currently enrolled in Library and Information Technology at MacEwan University. Together we started cataloguing the CKUA audio archives; this collection spans a variety of decades and formats, reel to reel tape, DAT, cassette tape, CDr backups, and digital-only files. Thanks to Sarah and Joe, we now have a database that lists synopses of the shows, staff biographies, episode lists, and media assets – not to mention a clean and well organized archive room! Before they left Sarah and Joe also recorded interviews about the work they did here this summer and some of the interesting and notable things they found. Those are being cut into vignettes which are going to air the week before our fall fundraiser (October 17 – 27, 2019). They’re very touching, and if we get a
chance to put them online I’ll send a follow up link.

CKUA airs a program called *Play It Again*, hosted by Tony Dillon-Davis. It is a weekly one-hour program of popular music from the 1920s through the 1950s; each week Tony presents a ‘feature year’, incorporating information on world events of the time. This program has been in rebroadcast for a number of years; this summer while we were working in the archives we found NEW (old) EPISODES! It’s super exciting, and with the help of a volunteer we have created playlists and been able to start airing new episodes of a series that has been playing the same 36 episodes for almost a decade. For more information, check our website out [https://ckua.com/read/play-it-again-again/](https://ckua.com/read/play-it-again-again/). Definitely an excellent example for our audience and management of how a little investment in the library has a great payoff!

It’s a little lonely to go back to working by myself but thankfully both Sarah and Joe have decided to volunteer once a week!

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**Anita Breckbill — University of Nebraska Lincoln**

We recently mounted a display in the Music Library to accompany an opera being given in the School of Music this fall. “The Gambler’s Son,” based on the book *Son of the Gamblin’ Man* by Mari Sandoz, was composed by Tyler White, a composer/conductor in the Glenn Korff School of Music here, with a libretto by Laura White, an English professor at UNL. The story is about John Cozad, founder of Cozad, Nebraska, and his son Robert Henri, an artist who was one of the Ashcan school of painters. Notice the name difference between father and son? That is related to a scandal—a wild-west-type shooting—which makes the story opera-worthy. The opera will be premiered in Cozad, Nebraska. The Robert Henri Museum, including Henri’s childhood home and an art museum of his works, is in Cozad as well.

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*Carl*, by Robert Henri
Attached are photographs of two portraits by Robert Henri that are held in the Museum in Cozad, and a slice of our display. (See Carl by Robert Henri, p.5; and Bridgeen, below.)

Sean Luyk – University of Alberta

Although I’m no longer the Music Librarian at the University of Alberta Library, I enjoy any opportunity I can to work on music-related projects in my new role as Digital Projects Librarian. One of my responsibilities in my new role is managing ERA A+V, our streaming media repository based on the Avalon Media System.

I’m pleased to announce the launch of the Convocation Hall Collection (named for UofA’s main performance venue) in ERA A+V. This collection represents a significant addition to our digital media archives and is the result of many years of work navigating complex copyright issues and technical challenges. The Convocation Hall Collection consists of nearly 2000 recordings documenting musical performances at the University of Alberta from 1967 to present and contains student and faculty recitals, performances by visiting artists, lecture-recitals, radio programs, and interviews.

Ongoing plans for this collection include linking to digitized concert programs in our institutional repository, metadata enhancements (e.g. creating detailed contents notes and time markers), and deposit of current UA music recordings on a regular basis. If any MPMLA members are considering digitizing and providing access to their institutional recordings, let me know. I’d be happy to share some tips and lessons learned!

Have a listen to the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus performing the UofA cheer song, arranged by Richard Eaton, a significant musical figure in the history of the University of Alberta.
Stephen Luttmann – University of Northern Colorado [retired]

Since the last Conventional Title, the UNC Music Library experienced a 75% staff turnover. One staffer moved to upstate New York with her family in April; another (some of you will remember Sharon Lantz) retired; and the music librarian—that would be yours truly—took a buyout offer and joined the Early Retirees’ Club in August. As things stand now, UNC will be unable to meet payroll by October 2022, and since it was offering me money to leave now, then why not take the money and run? And besides, I have enough for a modest existence for two even if I were to never work again. So I spend my days quieting the chorus of reproach from all the unread books in my home library, (mostly) avoiding all of the housecleaning projects I should be undertaking, and feeling the carpal tunnel syndrome drain away in time for the arthritis to take over. Wheeee!

So what’s next, Steve? You tell me and we’ll both know. I’m hardly thrilled by the thought of living out my days in Greeley, but moving is out of the question in the short term: You can’t move a 15-year-old rescue dog who, like most rescue dogs, has anxiety attacks in cars. My creaky joints and I would love to relocate to the Southeast Asian broiler oven, but Oak, the Lao spousal unit, obsessive amateur photographer that he is, has fallen in love with mountains and snow, and his brand-spanking-new Green Card is valid as long as he doesn’t take up residence abroad…and as long as the Supreme Court doesn’t overturn Obergefell v. Hodges. Until then I might just cast about for some part-time drudgery, like stocking shelves at Big Lots, because while I don’t need Social Security, which may not be around anyway by the time I’d qualify for any payout, I’d still need ten quarters’ worth of paying into the system in order to be eligible to collect anything, and why would I want to refuse the possibility of a little extra retirement cash? All that said, I’m sure I’ll have plenty of time and opportunity to see lots of you at what’s left of the University of Oklahoma this coming May—I’m still a chapter member, after all, and plan to stay that way. Meanwhile, the UNC Music Library is in the excellent hands of Ryan Seward, who, I trust, will be providing news of his own in these virtual pages.

Ellwood Colahan – University of Denver

Krista Beckman Recognized as Staff Innovator

Krista Beckman, assistant at University of Denver’s Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Music Library, recently received the University’s “Staff Innovator” award for her work organizing and developing career-support programming in the library for music students. In September Sarah Perske presented “Creating Your Own Ensemble,” a program based on her experience as a founding member and PR Director of Nebula Ensemble. In October, “Music x Tech”
saw students engage a panel of Music School faculty and alumni making careers at the intersection of music and technology. “Telling Your Story” in January will focus on helping students to envision the careers they want and begin planning to actualize them. In April, “Mentor for a Moment” will bring students together with a panel of alumni active in teaching and performing.

In addition to planning, organizing, coordinating, and promoting these events, Ms. Beckman also manages the Music Library social media, book displays, and other outreach efforts. Congratulations to Krista Beckman on her well-deserved recognition as Staff Innovator!

**Ryan Seward – University of Northern Colorado**

Ryan Seward, former Outreach Specialist at the Howard B. Waltz Music Library at University of Colorado Boulder, recently accepted the Interim Music Librarian position at the Howard M. Skinner Music Library at University of Northern Colorado and began his tenure in August. In addition, Emily Ruge and Debbie Springer joined the Skinner Music Library staff in August as Library Technicians, respectively coming from High Plains Library District in Greeley, Colorado and Northglenn High School in Northglenn, Colorado.

They would all like to extend a heartfelt thank you to former Music Librarian, Steve Luttmann, for the incredible collection and culture that they have inherited, which he was so integral in developing during his extensive tenure (January 1999–August 2019) at the Skinner Music Library.

**Kathy Essmiller – Oklahoma State University**

We are opening our new McKnight Performing Arts Center tonight (October 11, 2019) with the New York Phil!!

Read all about it here!

**Daryll Stephens – Colorado College**

This fall we were welcomed back into our newly renovated space! We’re not completely done, but we are loving what we have. We look
forward to our grand open house sometime in
November!

We gained some great study space and will be
polling students to see how they’d like to use
this space.

Yowza! This summer we began the migration to
a different ILS (dumping III!). We’re using an
open source tool — Koha -- being installed by
Bywater...and adding our very first discovery
layer (EDS from Ebsco). Our fabulous new
Metadata and Systems Librarian has been
heading this effort. This has certainly been an
experience; we now are being schooled
personally in the peculiar ways distinct
disciplines use catalogs. Many aspects of these
new systems are an improvement, and we’ll be
tweaking things for the next several
months. I’m guardedly enthusiastic...

On a personal note, the simultaneity of a
renovation and systems migration resulted in
enhancing my enjoyment of a long-awaited
road trip -- my husband and I went to out and
back to the northeast. I’ve returned with
renewed energy!

It’s homecoming weekend at Colorado College
and after a snowstorm accompanied by a 60
degree drop in temperature yesterday we’re
headed for a beautiful weekend.

Best wishes to all of you for this academic year!
Jeff Lyon – Brigham Young University

Jeff Lyon and his research associate Dr. Brent Yorgason, a music theorist in BYU’s School of Music, have been working on a thematic catalogue of Max Steiner film music. An outgrowth of this work has been the decision to sponsor a biennial symposium, to honor Max Steiner and the golden age of Hollywood film composing.

This year’s event will be held in Provo, Utah, in the Special Collections classroom of the Harold B. Lee Library, beginning with a pre-conference Halloween night screening of The Beast with Five Fingers.

Nov. 1 and 2 will feature papers, panels, a discussion with the author of the forthcoming Steiner biography, and a screening of the Max Steiner documentary including discussion with the documentarian. The symposium ends with a world premiere live performance of the reconstructed score to King Kong, played by the BYU Philharmonic while the film is rolling.

The complete program can be found here. Registration for the event is only $35, which includes several meals. https://tinyurl.com/maxsteiner

Did you know?

Earlier this month, on October 4, The Joker was released in theatres in the US. It is worth talking about because of its score, composed by Icelandic cellist & composer Hildur Guðnadóttir.

Director Todd Phillips wanted an empathetic portrayal of Arthur Fleck, the man who would become the joker. Guðnadóttir composed the character’s theme on her cello before the film was shot, which is unusual. When the theme was played during filming, the music influenced the direction the film would take, with the director making different choices because of the music.

The joker theme music is often performed on the halldorophone, which Guðnadóttir helped develop. “It’s a feedback instrument,” she explains. “A lot of the electronic sounds that you hear in the score, it’s all performed live, and it’s coming from the instrument and the connection with the amplifiers.”

Read more about it in the NPR article, where you can also watch short clips and listen to some of the score.

Read more about the halldorophone in this paper by Halldór Úlfarsson, the University of Sussex professor and Guðnadóttir collaborator for whom the instrument is named.
MLA 2020 will be at Hilton Norfolk The Main in Norfolk, Virginia! Hope to see many members of our chapter there! Feb. 26 – March 1, 2020

Hommage Notre Dame de Paris by Gil LeBlanc, created with 1,233 notes.

MPMLA 2020

The Mountain Plains Chapter will be meeting in Norman, OK on May 14-16 2020, hosted by Matt Stock and his staff at the University of Oklahoma.

Matt offers this quick preview:

We have the Community Meeting Room in the main library booked for both days.

I hope we will be able to arrange a return visit to the American Organ Institute Shop. [editor’s note: this may be complicated by the recent decision to close the AOI.]

Our History of Science Collection holds a number of musical items including a 1581 edition of Vincenzo Galilei’s “Dialogue”.

Hope to see you in May, 2020.

Savage Chickens by Doug Savage
Videos of some of the presentations given at MPMLA 2019 in Salt Lake City, with thanks to Woody Colahan for filming these:

**The Art of the Score** (Christopher Mehrens)

**Researching American Folk Hymns** (Wade Kotter)

**Publishing, Access, and Academic Freedom** (Rick Anderson)

**Music of Diane Thome** (Kristi Austin)

**Creativity in the Music Classroom** (Kathy Essmiller)

**Cataloging Diversity and Inclusion** (Clara Burns)

**Journal Proposal** (Ellwood Colahan)

**Cherokee Composer Jack Kilpatrick** (Matt Stock)

**Bear Skins and Armour** (Anita Breckbill)

**Music Librarians and Copyright** (Amy Hunsaker)

There is also a very short video of the dance, taken by Dawn Combe. The performers and dancers did not sign releases, but I am hopeful that they (we!) do not mind us watching them (us!) That was so much fun—thank you to Lisa Chaufty for having and carrying out that good idea. (Yours truly, the editor, admits to having the worst posture among the dancers.)

**MPMLA 2019: Friday Night Dance**

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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.