Message from the Chair

Greetings, dear and esteemed colleagues!

Thank you for taking a moment to catch up with your Mountain-Plains chapter.

As I considered items for our Library updates for this edition of The Conventional Title, I pondered the wonders of our new and still unfolding Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab at the Hale Library at Kansas State University. What struck me even more than the fact that our library is offering the kinds of technologies that have populated science fiction for decades past is the fact that we are providing such things to everyone! Our experts and specialists at this lab will work with any user to help them to realize their vision of whatever they want to create or accomplish. And that, friends, is one of the things that we as Librarians do best. Life and education often present us with prerequisites. The best Librarians do not. We have only one question: “How can I help?” From there it doesn’t matter what or who the person knows or where they came from. We jump in and go to work. As we navigate forward, seeking to be helpful to people from a growing array of backgrounds, what a cool job to be part of a profession that diligently seeks to add value to the enterprises of all people.

Thomas Bell – Kansas State University

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Poster Sessions


Maria Souliotis was elected as our new Chair-Elect. As such she is the new Chair of our Membership Committee. Did you know there are over 200 libraries serving music programs and activity at colleges in our chapter area? Thanks to a generous grant from MLA our membership committee has created a raffle of sorts to encourage old and brand-new potential members to join our listserv, come to our meetings, and work with us to find ways we may serve them and their programs. See more on this in the latest MLA Newsletter.

Beyond this tip of the Mountain-Plains iceberg we look forward to seeing each other in St. Louis for MLA where we tend to meet for a Thursday dinner. Also, we plan to meet in Norman, OK at the University of Oklahoma. Our battle cry this year for the second time is: “Next Year in Norman!” I will only add, “this time it’s personal.” We hope to see you there! --TB
For the first two weeks, my mind was buzzing with lesson plan ideas and a hearty helping of jitters and anxiety over how the class would go. I hadn’t taught undergrads in a regular classroom setting since 2015, so I was concerned I would be out of practice. Fortunately, I settled into the routine fairly quickly, although I had to rearrange my schedule in the library and allot extra time for lesson planning. Even though the semester is halfway over at the time of this writing, I still find myself only about two steps ahead of my class in terms of having lesson plans prepared. It feels like a lot of work right now, but on the bright side, I know I will have an entire battery of lesson plans to recycle if I ever teach this course again.

The Department Chair was helpful in getting me set up for success in teaching Music Appreciation. He let me borrow heavily from his syllabus, test bank, and course materials. I ended up retaining a lot of the course policies that he and other previous instructors had in place, namely the “no late work” policy. I’m sure some of the students think this is a little harsh, but it is a necessary evil in order to hold them accountable for their work. As I said after the first major deadline had passed, “If you miss a job interview, do you get the job?” I think the students got the message with that. However, I do allow students to revise and resubmit their writing assignments to earn a higher score. I argue that if students ever want to publish a book or another piece of writing “for real,” they will work with an editor who will require multiple drafts. In short, I use coursework to simulate real-world experiences as best as I am able.
I am also making a conscious effort to take a holistic approach to education, and educate the “whole student.” I use the “exit ticket” method, where students respond to a Question of the Day on an index card, to not only take roll but to conduct an informal assessment of how the students are doing. Sometimes this is a question related to the day’s lesson content, but I tend to ask about their personal academic habits more often than not. After the entire class answered “Have you ever experienced test anxiety?” with YES, we had a short discussion about strategies to combat test anxiety. It must have worked, because the class average on the next test went up by 5%.

Finally, I am trying to keep the course content as fun as possible. The class seems to enjoy hearing fun facts about the lives of the composers. They also loved when I shared “Sull’aria” from The Marriage of Figaro and connected its context in the original opera to its use in The Shawshank Redemption. In the coming weeks, I am really looking forward to teaching The Rite of Spring and anything related to John Cage. I know the students will be shocked.

Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University (emeritus)

There once was a music librarian
Who retired and went a-travel-arian
Flew to Europe, Jordan, Israel
Saw sites, ate lots, rode a camel
Happy but missing MPMLA-rians!

Janet and the camels
Janet & Daron floating in the Dead Sea
Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany
Steve Luttmann – University of Northern Colorado (emeritus)

So I’m at my neighbor Diane’s house – we had just finished doing an Old Folks Thing, namely, walking around the park a couple of times – and I’m telling her about Dustin, the newest member of the household. “Yes, we got a cat this time. Oak said maybe it would hurt less if a cat died on us.” When suddenly from the next room Diane’s housekeeper yells “Bulls---!” And I’m sure that someday – may that day not come soon – the housekeeper will be proved right. Dustin is a maybe three-year-old ex-guy, very sweet, but also very mischievous and rambunctious. Two months after the adoption and I’m still learning how to cat-proof a house...

Otherwise I avoid house work and especially yard work, and read. Having finished War and Peace (still legal!), I’m now tackling Henry James. After so many years of German literature I find his convoluted sentences fairly easy going, except right before bedtime. That’s the good news. Now for some bad news. Some of you may be aware that Anne Myers left the University of Northern Colorado Music Library this past February. While I’m not privy to the details, I don’t think it entirely coincidental that her departure was quickly followed by the elimination of the music librarian position. In fact there are no longer any subject librarians at the university: the remaining reference librarians (or whatever they’re being called these days) have been relieved of all subject-specific responsibilities and now just meet patrons by appointment and do chat from their offices or homes. (The main library reference desk was eliminated years ago.) Except for special requests, all purchasing is automatic, i.e., the library sends money, the vendors send stuff, and usually in that order. It’s painful to think about, but it does confirm my belief that I got out in time.

Anita Breckbill – University of Nebraska Lincoln

Here are a couple of newsy limericks from UNL for the Conventional Title.

When UNL moved its library
Of music, things got sort of hairy.
“We have to dig fast,
Right under your stacks.
We’ll do it in spring—February.”

We quick found a sweet core collection
To keep in the reading room section.
Sent the rest away
For another day
And hope there is no insurrection.

(The limericks refer to a future project—coming in the spring of 2023.)
Christine Edwards – University of Central Oklahoma

&

Stephanie Bonjack – University of Colorado Boulder

&

Maristella Feustle – University of North Texas

The new volume of *Careers in Music Libraries IV* (A-R Editions) includes chapters written by these esteemed colleagues from the Mountain Plains Chapter.

Christine is the author of Chapter 15: *Mentor, Mentee: Creating and Sustaining Mutually Beneficial Mentorships.*

Stephanie is the author of Chapter 21: *Rocking the Boat: Leading and Managing Change in the Music Library.*

Maristella (who doesn’t live in our chapter but is a member anyway!) is the author of Chapter 6: *Training and Education of Music Librarians,* and co-author of Chapter 9: *Don’t Give Up Your Night Job: Active Musical Performance ...*


Janice Bunker – Brigham Young University

I have several big-ticket news items, aren’t you so lucky?!

1. The gargantuan project to change all the circulation codes for the vinyl records which will be circulating is complete! It has taken many months and about 12 spreadsheets, but Monday, September 26 was the official first day for patrons to check out LPs. Yay! Although I didn’t even think to check one out. My list of problems and things to fix is a medium-sized 6-tabbed spreadsheet, several carts (5+), and one shelf rank but I am working through it.

2. For Janet’s retirement, I was asked to make a wall-hanging that could be framed so people could sign the mat around it with well-wishes. And of course, I found some music things I could quilt:

3. Since Janet retired, I applied for her job. I have had a preliminary interview and I’m hoping to be called back for a second interview. Fingers crossed!

4. Since Janet retired, I am sort of doing her job in addition to taking care of some of the music duties that used to be completed by our department assistant, who left to attend graduate school in North Carolina. So I have a full-time job plus a half plus a sixth. Fractions, anyone?
5. My downstairs bathroom-laundry room has begun to be remodeled!!

6. I received a research grant from the University of Utah to spend 120 more hours on the research I presented at our MPMLA meeting in May. Myrna and Lisa helped me decide on some journals I could submit my article to, and I get paychecks from both BYU and U of U.

7. I just discovered that I can graduate with my degree in organ performance in April 2023! The school changed one of the requirements and so I don’t have to wait until 2024 😊 yay! This will coincide with two of my kids’ graduations; hopefully they won’t overlap.

Maria Souliotis – Northeastern State University (OK)

My university's Music Dept. is conducting a raffle ticket fundraiser to help send Chorus Students on their performance tour to the Baltics this Spring Break. The grand prize is a Hawaiian Vacation for two.

Link to purchase a raffle ticket
Trip terms & conditions
NSU Music Facebook page

Support NSU Chorus and be entered to win a TRIP TO HAWAII

Includes roundtrip airfare for 2 to Honolulu and 5 nights in a double-occupancy room at a name-brand hotel in Waikiki.
Travel dates impact hotel selection & certain restrictions apply
1 ticket for $20 or 6 tickets for $100
Drawing will be held on December 2, 2022 at 7pm
Do NOT need to be present to win.

Carolyn Dow – Polley Music Library Manager, retired

Lincoln City Libraries' Polley Music Library is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Lots of print and broadcast media coverage, including from the local newspaper, Polley has "severed the community for 40 years."* New services include guitars for checkout. And, lots of programming. My best wishes go to the Polley Music Library for the next 40 years. Otherwise, it's not my circus, not my clowns, acrobats, or animal acts, so I really haven't kept track. As an occasional customer, I'm happy to still be able to walk to the shelf and find what I'm seeking, including print reference works.

* a typo by the newspaper, but the typo has led to lots of jokes, especially with the music library being "cutting edge" for so many years.

Polley Music Library's 40th Anniversary Music Challenge
September 1 - October 29, 2022

Josh Henry – University of Oklahoma

On September 19, the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma announced that they had established the Romanoff Center for Russian Studies. The creation of this center was made possible by a $2 million gift given by the estate of Princess Janet Romanoff, who was
born in Oklahoma in 1933 as Janet Schoenwald and died in Cairo, Egypt in 2017. It is supposedly the only academic entity in the United States to be named after the Romanoff family, and it will function as a place to learn about Russian history, culture, and current events. Part of the gift includes roughly 950 bound volumes, glass plate negatives of Romanoff family photos, correspondence about the family’s emigration from Russia, and the diaries of Grand Duchess Xenia.

Many librarians and library staff at OU Libraries were unaware of this development, but many suspect that at least some in the leadership team were aware. I would certainly hope that some knew considering that catalogers and archivists will now have to help process the materials that came with the gift. It was quite exciting to learn that an Oklahoman married into a previously royal Russian family. Sadly, since I do not read Cyrillic and another cataloger at the OU Libraries does, I will likely not be assisting in the cataloging of the books. However, if there are books in other languages, I might get to help out, which should be fun.

**Thomas Bell – Kansas State University**

This Fall at K-State Libraries we were fully open for the first time since the fire back in May of 2018. Before the fire we had received a gift from the Sunderland Foundation to create an Innovation Lab. The project was delayed by the fire but (along with our entire library, finally!) this lab is open and thriving.

Lab features include: IT equipment checkout, an Artificial Intelligence studio, Collaboration Spaces, **Fab Space**: This glassed-in environment is used for 3D printing, laser cutting and digital fabrication. It includes 8 Ultimaker S3 and 2 Ultimaker S5 3D printers, 2 Formlabs SLA 3D printers, 2 Glowforge laser cutters, 4 desktop computers, tools for shaping, a sink, display area and other supplies. **Immersion Studio** (In Development! – an immersive environment that features both virtual reality headsets and near-surround wall projections for visualizing and experiencing digital content with the naked eye), a **Liquid Galaxy** display, a **Makerspace** open-access area that can be used to produce handcrafted materials using powered and unpowered tools, including common hand tools such as hammers and files, workbenches, sewing machines, crafting supplies, sink, belt sander, drill press and scroll saw.


Other features include a Media studio, a **Media gallery** (for Installation pieces/projects), a **One Button+ studio**, a **Sound studio**, a recording studio that includes a digital recording workstation, mounted LCD display, sound monitors, microphone array, pre-amps, headphones, a custom-built recording booth and a full-sized piano keyboard. And currently in the works, a **Video production studio** featuring a control room and theatrical space, which includes adjustable stage grid lighting and microphone array.

A campus of our size has labs that include various elements of this one, but access to them tends by necessity to be limited to researchers, students, and faculty in that department.
We are especially proud that this spectacular lab is open to everyone! No previous experience required. As a Land Grant university, it is our pleasure to serve our community, city, region, and beyond. This lab features staff who are prepared and willing to assist any person. No previous experience required. Among the wild array of possible projects, visions, and plans to realize we have faculty working on 3D printed musical instruments. For more info go to https://lib.k-state.edu/technology/innovation-lab/.

Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University

Let me begin with a photo of me and cute little Phoebe, in front of a panorama photo of an exhibit in our library curated by Janet Bradford and me, and two of our colleagues, Andy Spackman and Trevor Alvord. (Photo credit to Phoebe’s mom, my daughter Nancy).

The presentation that my colleague Kellie Busath and I gave at MPMLA in May, *The Provo to Hollywood Pipeline*, (based on an earlier presentation Janet Bradford and I gave at another conference in 2021) was the basis for this exhibit, *Provo Pop Music Connections*. It has been in the library since June, and will remain there until November.

It has been fun to have people *featured* in the exhibit *visit* the exhibit. One day I got a call to come on down because “Donny and his brother Tom” were there. Donny was very nice and funny—someone asked about the Donny and Marie dolls on display and he joked, “Let’s *burn* them!” He spoke of his costume collection in Las Vegas with “one costume for every year of [his] career: 60 costumes.” Mind boggling to think of someone’s career lasting 60 years—though possible, if you start at age 5! Much as I love being a music librarian, I cannot imagine doing it for 60 years!!

Tom, second of the Osmond Brothers, is deaf, and was never one of the entertainers. He was a good friend of my older cousin Bert years ago, and so he and I had things (people) to talk about. Since Bert had recently died, and Tom did not know, he gave me a big hug. It was pretty surreal to be having a long conversation and sharing a hug with Tom, while ignoring Donny who was just standing quietly by. As the two brothers and their small retinue of very ordinary people walked away, I thought to myself that nobody would even realize a pop star was in their midst.

Michael Hicks, music faculty emeritus, brought his friend Karl Engemann to see the exhibit one Saturday. Several grandsons of The Cowboy Tenor came, two from California and one from Texas, to take a peek at the exhibit. Two of the Clinger Sisters, Melody and Patsy, came to visit one day in June.

On October 12, a panel discussion was held, moderated by Michael Hicks, with Karl Engemann (Capitol Records Executive, now in his 90s), his son Paul Engemann (think *Scarface* 1983), the Clinger Sisters, and Zach Collier, keyboardist for *Michael Barrow and the Tourists*, a local band that has a huge following in Turkey. It was a great night! Zach is also the editor of *Provo Music Magazine*.  
Greetings:

My name is Maria Souliotis, and I am the Music Librarian at Northeastern State University (Tahlequah, OK) and a proud Lamont School of Music alum (MA-Musicology, Class of 2015). I am writing to you today to tell you about the Music Library Students and Emerging Professionals group (MLStEP) and our current membership drive. MLStEP is a part of the Music Library Association (MLA), and is sponsored by the MLA Career Development and Services Committee. I currently serve as the MLStEP Liaison for members residing in the Mountain-Plains region of the U.S. (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming) and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

I would like to extend the invitation to all students and early-career librarians and paraprofessionals at the Lamont Music Library who might benefit from membership in MLStEP. As an organization, MLStEP provides a chance for students and emerging professionals to network and learn from one another. We sponsor social gatherings at national and regional MLA meetings and distribute information about internships, jobs, grants, and other applicable opportunities of interest via our email list and social media accounts.

Membership in MLStEP provides a chance for professional development by serving in leadership positions on the MLStEP board, or as MLA chapter liaisons. Members receive email updates on upcoming events (including webinars, panels, and socials) and other useful information. We strive for diversity in our membership and leadership, and welcome unique perspectives to improve and enrich the profession going forward. In bringing together both students and emerging professionals interested in or involved with music and performing arts librarianship, MLStEP hopes to provide greater opportunities for students to build connections with their colleagues in their first few years in the field.

If you or anyone else at your Library would like to learn more about MLStEP, we encourage you to visit our website and contact us with any questions you might have. Joining is simple—simply fill out the Google form here, and you will be added to our membership roster and our email list. (MLStEP has no membership fee.) If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or any of the MLStEP officers.

Best wishes for the 2022-2023 academic year!

Sincerely,

Maria Souliotis

Mountain-Plains Chapter Liaison, Music Library Students and Emerging Professionals (MLStEP)

mlstepmpliaison@gmail.com

Music Library Association | MLStEP

Who wants to be the next editor of Conventional Title?

When I edited my first issue, opus 61 (April 2013) I felt pretty daunted by the task. I have grown to enjoy it—except the begging for news part, but that was more fun with poetry this time around. And it is probably time to share the joy, after 10 years! Please email me myrna_layton@byu.edu of your interest to take on this responsibility!! Thank you!!
...about World Radio History? As in worldradiohistory.com? by Myrna Layton

This website is a non-profit, non-commercial website “created for educational and historical purposes. Other than where indicated, the operator of this website does not claim copyright or ownership of any photographic images contained herein. Such images are reproduced in low or medium resolution and consist principally of unclaimed or "orphan" images where the copyright owner is deceased, untraceable or unknown. They appear on this site under the "fair use" doctrine of United States copyright law, which permits the use of copyrighted material for scholarship, archiving and research purposes.”

The people behind this website are listed on the homepage (keep scrolling to find the list on the left side), and they can be contacted at david@worldradiohistory.com. They spend 8-12 hours per day on the site, and between them read English, French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

Why was the website created? The creators noticed that printed material about radio and television was hard to find. They state: “Libraries are discarding (often to the recycle bin) many titles.” They also noticed that what information there was might be behind a paywall that made the unprivileged unable to access it. And they wanted to provide access to everyone.

I discovered this site while looking for a particular advertisement that I knew appeared in Cash Box some time in the late 1960s. 57 libraries have Cash Box in their collections, but no index does a good job of indexing Cash Box. For example, Music Index only has “selective coverage from 1989 to 1991.” And yet, Cash Box’s publication run was 1942-1996. On this website, there is amazing, searchable coverage. I felt like I had found a gold mine! https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-All-Music/Cash-Box-Magazine.htm

How big is the entire World Radio History site? There are over 5 million pages scanned and made available for researchers on this site.

Because the website is non-profit, the owners will accept donations of materials they lack, but never financial donations. It is self-financed. An owner explains: “I’ve been in radio for nearly 60 years, and radio treated me well (most of the time). This site is a way of giving back to those who also love the art and the science and the business of radio. Since I work as a radio consultant, the site contributes to my "awareness" in the industry and is my only form of promotion.”

Maybe you will find World Radio History as helpful as I have!
There once were some musical nerds
Who wanted to fly like the birds—
To gather in Norman,
To take the place stormin’
But every year, nope!! I’ve no words!!

Thrice COVID upended the plan,
And Matt had to say, “Not here, man!”
We gathered online
(And it was sublime)—
We just had to do what we can.

This year, will we finally meet
In Norman? Say, that would be sweet!
With Dr. Matt Stock—
It’s coming! Tick tock!!
In May, if we’re LIVE, what a treat!!

Next year in Norman! May 2023!
Tentatively set for May 19/20