Heading back to New Mexico Where it All Began for the 1997 Mountain-Plains Chapter Conference

The University of New Mexico and the UNM Fine Arts Library invites you to the Land of Enchantment for the annual conference of the Mountain-Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association, May 16-17, 1997. The Fine Arts Library staff is experienced (this will be the fourth Chapter meeting at Albuquerque) and excited to be hosting the first of two meetings celebrating the Chapter’s twentieth anniversary.

The festivities will begin on Thursday evening, May 15, with a gala reception at the home of Jim and Carla Wright in the nearby village of Corrales. Come early to enjoy an evening of food, friendship, and entertainment in this relaxing rural setting. Transportation will be provided to and from the hotel.

The Merv Griffin Doubletree Hotel in Albuquerque will be the Conference Headquarters. Located downtown, the Doubletree is just two blocks north of La Posada Hotel, of 1991 conference fame. (We probably could have stayed there again, but they didn’t want to repaint the fireplace!) The hotel is near Old Town and several museums. Of special interest will be a brand new aquarium (most likely for desert fish), the botanical gardens, and of course the famous Rio Grande Zoological Park. The Conference rates will be $63.31 for a single room, and $81.40 for a double room, plus tax.

Most major airlines fly to the Albuquerque International Sunport. You can also travel by Amtrak or bus. If you plan to drive, routes I-40 East/West and I-25 North/South intersect in the heart of the city.

Make plans now to have a wonderful time with us in Albuquerque. Great plans are in the works for musical entertainment and excursions, but these are top secret at this time. Not even Gary will tell, so don’t ask. And I guarantee the weather will be great!

Jim Wright, Local Arrangements Committee
Hearty greetings to you all from the Chair of the Mountain-Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association! It is a privilege to serve in this capacity during these exciting times in our chapter. This year marks the beginning of our twentieth anniversary celebrations. That’s right, twenty years of Mountain-Plains. We hope that our celebrations will be memorable for all our members. It’s going to take us two years to do all the celebrating we want to get in, so be prepared for lots of fun and surprises.

We have a wonderful new slate of officers to help carry us through our celebratory years. Bob Follet (Arizona State University) is the newly elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Irene Halliday (Brigham Young University) continues on as Treasurer, Laurie Eagleson (University of Arizona), our archivist, was elected our Member-At-Large, Laurie Sampsel (University of Colorado, Boulder) has graciously consented to remain as newsletter editor, and Susan Hitchens continues on the Board in the now official post of Past Chair. I thank them all for their willingness to serve and I thank all of you for voting them into office!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jean Jensen and all the wonderful people at Utah State University in Logan for preparing such a memorable conference for us. You truly made us welcome and showed us a wonderful time even if it was cold and rainy. My thanks also to the Program Committee for Logan, Bob Follet, Myron Patterson and Stefanie Moritz for the interesting and stimulating program. Now it’s time to set our eyes toward Albuquerque for next year’s conference. Jim Wright and crew have already begun to brew up another great conference for us and I hope all of you will make plans to attend as we celebrate our twentieth anniversary.

The collective heart of MPMLA goes out to Daron and Janet Bradford at the loss of their newborn baby. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers so that they may gain strength through this time of sorrow.

We are also sad to have to say goodbye (-temporarily, I sincerely hope) to two very active members, Stefanie Moritz (Phoenix Public) and Rick AmRhein (UNLV) both of whom are moving on to new positions. We wish them well in their new endeavors and thank them both for the service they have given to MPMLA over the years.

Finally, I hope to see a good number of you in New Orleans for the MLA conference. I encourage you all to attend. MPMLA usually has a good representation at these annual events and I am sure that New Orleans will be no exception. Look for news about the chapter dinner on the MPMLA-LIST. Until next time, adios!

Gary W. Mayhood
Mountain-Plains Chapter Chair

MPMLA
The Mountain-Plains Chapter encompasses Alberta, Canada, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. It is one of twelve regional chapters of the Music Library Association.

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Mountain-Plains Chapter,  
MPMLA Annual Conference—May 17-18, 1996

Mountain-Plains Chapter members discovered Cache Valley, Utah, historic rendezvous site of Jim Bridger and the mountain men, by gathering May 17-18, 1996, for their own rendezvous at Utah State University (USU) in Logan. Early arrivals were treated to the traditional Thursday pre-meeting social, this year hosted by Jean Jensen, Local Arrangements Chair. Shuttled by vans through a light rain to the Jensen home in Millville, members enjoyed a lovely pasta dinner, good conversation, and an impromptu musical page with poetry recitation (Jenny Williams’ husband), vocal duets (Carol Neighbor and daughter, Triva), a piano duet (Daron and Janet Bradford), group singing of rounds and ballads, and even a spoonerized “Cinderella” monologue by our gracious hostess.

Following registration the next morning, chapter members gathered in the high-tech meeting room of USU’s new Science and Technology Library for a welcome from the president of the Cache Valley Historical Society, Steve Murdock, dressed as an authentic mountain man. Murdock presented a brief history of trapping in the region, passing around a beaver pelt to allow closer examination of the prized two-level fur.

The morning program opened with a presentation by Dr. Barre Toelken, Professor of English at USU, and head of the Fife Folklore Archive. An internationally recognized folklorist, Toelken discussed what comprises folklore and how to define it. As his starting point, he used the definition developed for the Congressional Act of Jan. 2, 1976, which established the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, elaborating further on the differences between history and folklore. Musical examples were drawn from cowboy songs and poetry available in the Fife Archive.

In the next paper, “Music of the New American Nation: Documenting Early American Psalmody,” Dr. Karl Kroeger (University of Colorado, Boulder, retired) discussed his work on the above-titled new series of 15 volumes, currently being issued by Garland Press. Previous monographic studies of the repertoire have been done, but few modern publications of the music exist. During the summer of 1994, Kroeger approached the publishers, who responded with great enthusiasm for the project. Kroeger discussed the series’ organization as well as particular aspects of each volume.

The final presentation of the morning, “Nets to You!—Creating a Library Homepage,” was given by Gary Mayhood (New Mexico State University). Mayhood drew on his personal experiences developing the homepage at NMSU, and shared a wealth of handouts with the audience. Internet access allowed the group to view several music library homepages.

Lunch in a private dining room of USU’s Taggart Student Union included a program of several lovely selections by the USU Chamber Singers, conducted by Dr. Will Kesling. Standing in a circle around the outside of the room as they performed, the singers literally enveloped Mountain-Plainers in live “surround sound.” A guided tour of the music facilities on campus followed the meal.

Rested, entertained, fed and exercised, chapter members returned to the Science and Technology Library ready for the first afternoon presentation, “User Self-sufficiency and the Music Library—Do We Need It, Want It, or Have It?” by Bob Follet (Arizona State University). Citing the struggles of his own committee experience at ASU to arrive at a definition of this concept, Follet offered the following description of self-sufficiency: “If patrons want to do it (library research, etc.) themselves and can do it themselves, then the library must enable them to do it themselves.” He described different types of patrons and points to consider in determining their self-sufficiency levels. Pointing out that the enabling factor is often the weakest, Follet discussed various organizational and system-based aspects and procedures that help librarians but may confuse, rather than help, patrons. He indicated that libraries need to be more user-friendly if patrons are to find them inviting and desire greater self-sufficiency.

Presenting the final paper of the day, Suzanne Moulton-Gertig (University of Denver) discussed “The Berlin Hochschule Composers During the Twilight Years of the Weimar Republic.” After a brief history of the Hochschule, Moulton-Gertig reported the enormous effect of political developments and Nazi criticism on the school and its faculty, how appointments were made, and the political overtones attached to them. Highlighting the careers of many of the composers of this time, such as Hindemith, Koch and Kahn, Moulton-Gertig discussed their importance to the whole compositional movement during this period of uncertainty in the history of the Hochschule.

Late afternoon walking tours of the recently renovated Ellen Eccles Theater, home of the Utah Festival Opera company, and the Logan Tabernacle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in downtown Logan were of great interest to chapter members in spite of the persistent rain showers.

Zanavoo Lodge in beautiful Logan Canyon provided an “old West” setting for the MPMLA banquet, with “swingin’” entertainment provided by the lively USU Jazz Choir, conducted by Derek Furch. The final three papers of the conference followed a tasty continental breakfast in the Logan City Building Saturday morning. Laurie Sampsel (University of Colorado, Boulder) presented “Biobibliography Methodology: Lessons Learned from Cyril Scott.” Sampsel reported some of the obstacles she encountered compiling entries for her upcoming bio-bibliography on the English composer. Scott’s autobiographies were frustrating resources because he omitted many personal details, and his wife wishes to reserve her cooperation for a full-scale biographer of her late husband. Sampsel traveled to London to review source materials in the British Library, the British Music Information (continued on next page)
Annual Conference Report (continued from previous page)

Center, The Royal College Library, the Royal Academy Library, and the National Sound Archive. Frustrations persisted in England in the form of extraordinary security measures, multiple passes, repeated confirmations of her plans, and slow delivery of requested materials. Among her more rewarding sources were the Northwestern University Card Index (a Works Progress Administration project) and a Library of Congress card index of sources published 1901-1942.

Charles King (University of Arizona), discussed "The Koussevitsky Foundation Commissioning Program." The Russian-born Sergey Koussevitsky, conductor and promoter of 20th-century music, came to America in 1924 and devoted himself to supporting modern music (American composers Copland, Harris, Piston, Hanson, Schuman and Bernstein enjoyed his help). Koussevitsky had married a wealthy woman in Russia before the revolution; after her death, he established the Koussevitsky Music Foundation in 1950, a permanent endowment in support of the development of musical talent through the commissioning of new compositions. Grants for symphonic works now range from $20,000 to $30,000; for chamber music, from $12,500 to $17,500. Each commission must be co-sponsored by a recognized performing group which agrees to perform the premier. These works become part of the Library of Congress' permanent collection. Has the Foundation fulfilled Koussevitsky's mission? More than 260 works have been commissioned since 1950; only six projects were never fulfilled. Several foundation grant winners have eventually won the Pulitzer Prize for music. Roughly one third of Foundation compositions have been published and recorded; another third are still being composed. Harriet Patterson for exotic instruments commissioned in Wichita. Harriet Patterson (continued from previous page)
Chapter Happenings

Brigham Young University
Irene Halliday, reporter

Staff Activities
It’s been a year of accomplishment for the Music Team at BYU. Virginia Watson completed her second master’s degree in Public Administration (her first was an MLIS in 1992). Sherry Wadham received the Certificate of Achievement Award from the Utah Library Association’s Paraprofessional Achievement Program. Irene Halliday was promoted to the rank of Associate Librarian and awarded continuing status. Janet Bradford was promoted to the rank of Senior Librarian and also received the Faculty Professionalism Award at the annual fall Library meeting.

David Day continues to teach the Music Research Techniques course. He began work on a Web site for the Music Library and demonstrated the process at MLA in Seattle. Two out-of-the-ordinary projects included recording audio and video for the Bachauer Junior Piano Competition in Salt Lake City and the World Harp Congress in Tacoma, WA. During his summer vacation, David tried to begin construction of a new home. Due to several complications in the design and construction process the house was postponed until next spring.

As most of you know (from the e-mail announcement) the Bradford’s baby boy Andrew died at birth on August 6th. They have appreciated your beautiful cards, thoughts and prayers.

Major New Acquisitions
Some major purchases and donations include various collections of vinyl sound recordings, a private viola collection from Vienna and copies of viola manuscripts from Scandinavian Music Information Centers. The library also purchased a workstation for digital audio preservation.

Library Projects
Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new underground library addition occurred Friday, September 20, 1996. This 234,000 square foot expansion will house the Family History Library, special and archival collections, the social sciences collection, a 200-seat auditorium, the centralized periodicals room, and two computer labs with 400 terminals. Planned completion is late 1998, with renovation of the current building taking place in 1999. We hope to move into our centralized music library area in the year 2000!

Denver University
Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, reporter

Staff Activities
The Music Library at the University of Denver welcomes two new staff members since the last Conventional Title appeared. Hui-Jen McLane joined the staff as a Library Assistant III. Hui-Jen (or Jenny) comes to us from Southern Methodist University, where she earned a master’s degree in piano performance. Most recently added to the staff as a weekend staff member is Anna Nisnevich, a former student of the Gnessin Music College in Moscow. Anna is a master’s student in music history.

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig has been awarded a sabbatical for Spring and Summer Quarters of 1997. Last spring she was on a panel concerning library issues with Deans Nancy Allen (DU), Camila Alire (CU-Auraria Library), Lynn Conaway (DU Library School), and Head of the Law School Library Gary Alexander as part of the first University of Denver Masters Week Program honoring the professional accomplishments of distinguished graduates of DU. Alire was the honoree.
Major New Acquisitions

Last spring the Music Library was the recipient of a collection of over 200 laserdiscs from the late Jerry Morris, a retired librarian and music enthusiast who spent a large amount of his professional life in Connecticut and New York City.

Lincoln City Libraries

Carolyn Dow, reporter

Staff Activities

I just got back from Perugia, Italy, where I attended the IAML/IASA joint conference, and presented a paper. I was elected Secretary of the Public Libraries Branch of IAML. This means that I have to attend the next 3 conferences, in Geneve, San Sebastian, and Wellington. (Isn't life rough?)

Phoenix Public Library

Stefanie Moritz, reporter

Staff Activities

Regrettably, I must inform you all that September 20 will be my last day as Music Librarian at the Central Library. I am being transferred to one of Phoenix Public's branches and so will no longer have responsibility for the music collection. Meredith Julian will be replacing me as the music selector on September 30th. I have really enjoyed the camaraderie of the Mountain-Plains chapter these past few years and will miss your revelries at the annual and chapter meetings. I hope that our paths will cross again at some point, so let's say that this is only farewell for now!

University of Colorado at Boulder

Laurie Sampsel, reporter

Staff Activities

This year has continued to be one of transition for us at CU Boulder. Two staff members have left us. Dallas Marshall took a promotion last fall to go to the CU Law Library. In August, Leah Riddick resigned when her husband, Frank, got a teaching position at Oklahoma City University. We will especially miss Leah after her many years of devoted service to the Music Library. We wish Leah and Dallas the best in their new adventures. The good news is that Susan Rewinkel has accepted a promotion to take Leah's place. Laura Vanderlei was hired to replace Dallas last fall. And, we finally have a new Head of the Music Library. I am happy to report that I am official in that position after more than two years of "acting." We hope to fill the vacant Music Librarian and Library Technician II positions soon.

Major New Acquisitions

September was a busy month, with a number of activities related to the establishment of the Glenn Miller Archive at the CU Libraries. The US Postal Service hosted a Second Day Issuance Ceremony for the Big Band Leaders postage stamps on September 12. The Miller events culminated in an American Music Gala on the 21st, an event which kicked off the fundraising campaign for a new facility to house the Miller Archive as well as the American Music Research Center.

Other American music acquisitions include the purchase of a major collection of about 500 19th-century tunebooks and the Hartke Sheet Music Collection. The Hartke Collection, which includes about 75,000 pieces of sheet music, will be arriving on campus later this year. The Collection includes mostly 20th-century imprints and is especially strong in the areas of ragtime, Berlin, Black music, show tunes, and movie music.

Library Projects

Our retrospective conversion project is still in progress. We're now converting our LP collection. We hope to finish the project by the end of the calendar year, thanks to the efforts of our temporary retro team. We're also working on bringing up automated acquisitions. The hard work of Anita Ortman, Library Technician III, is making that transition as painless as possible. We've also done a bit of expansion of our new Audio-Video Center. This falls under the category of "if you build it, they will come." American Audio Systems added a new matrix, additional VCRs, several mini-disk recorders, and an additional CD player over the summer.

University of Kansas

Bunker Clark, reporter

Staff Activities

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Victor Cardell as Music Librarian. Victor is presently employed by the University of Chicago as Bibliographer for Music and Curator of the Chicago Jazz Archive. Prior to this employment, Victor held two positions with UCLA: Music Librarian for Special Collections (1993-94) and Head, Archive of Popular American Music (1986-93). Victor has also served as Assistant Head of the Music Library, Yale University (1982-86) and Assistant Head (1979-81) and Acting Head (1981-82) of the Cornell University Music Library. Victor earned the MS degree in librarianship from Columbia University, an MA degree in Medieval and Renaissance Musicology from New York University, and a BA in Music from Trinity College. Victor will assume his responsibilities in the Music Library on October 7, 1996. He replaces Susan Hitchens.
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Richard AmRhein, reporter

Staff Activities
I have just accepted a new job. I’ll be Director of Technical and Automation Services at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. I’ll be starting right after the first of the year.

Washburn University
Rachel Vukas, reporter

Staff Activities
I have accepted a new job with EBSCO as an Account Services Manager. I will be training library staff and assisting them in the use of all of EBSCO’s automated products including subscription services and Internet and CD-ROM products. I will be working out of my home and also traveling through Kansas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. I’m really looking forward to the new challenges and working even more with technology. The down side is that I will no longer be at Washburn University. I’ll miss doing BI and working with the music faculty. However, I think I will actually have more time to devote to my own music, especially on the hammered dulcimer.

I have really enjoyed getting to know everyone in the Mountain-Plains chapter. Even though I didn’t get to a lot of meetings, the ones I did attend were a lot of fun (and educational, too).

Wichita State University
Shelly Wolff and Paul Gahn, reporters

Staff Activities
Shelly reports that she is taking organ lessons this fall, and occasionally substituting for the regular organist at her church. She also agreed to take on directing the 4-5 year old and 1st and 2nd grade choirs at her church. She and her daughter (who is now 19 months old) are taking a “Might Mites” gym class at the local YMCA.

Major New Acquisitions
WSU received a gift of about $2000 for the purchase of opera videos.

Library Projects
Wichita State’s retrospective conversion of scores is progressing well. We plan to complete the project by June of 1997. We currently have 17,152 score titles on-line and estimate we have another 4,000 to do. Sections still needing retro include: M217-M386, and MT222-MT936. WSU also has about 5-6,000 LPs which are not online. More than likely these will remain offline, access being provided by the existing card catalog.

Events Calendar
January 28-29, 1997  CE Workshops
- Workshop on Series Authority
  Records 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
  Program Workshop
  8:30 am to 5:00 pm
  New Orleans, Louisiana
  Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans

January 29, 1997  MOUG
  New Orleans, Louisiana
  Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans
  9 am to 5 pm

January 29-February 2, 1997
  MLA New Orleans
  New Orleans, Louisiana
  Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans

May 16-17, 1997  MPMLA Conference
  Albuquerque, New Mexico
  Merv Griffin DoubleTree Hotel

Logan Business Meeting (continued from page 4)

The upcoming twentieth MPMLA anniversary added extra zest to the discussion of 1997 meeting sites. Jim Wright issued an enthusiastic invitation to Albuquerque, considered especially appropriate since Jim and three colleagues were a little to the north in Taos at the original chapter-establishment planning meeting in 1977.

Laurie Sampsel also offered to host the conference in Boulder, Colorado, the site of the first “official” chapter meeting.

Bob Follet came up with the wonderful idea of a gala two-year celebration; New Mexico in 1997 in honor of the first organizing meeting, and Boulder in 1998 in honor of the first official meeting. Chapter members enthusiastically approved!

With a touch of nostalgia, Hitchens ceremoniously “passed the gavel” (actually, the file) to the new Chair, Gary Mayhood, who honored Hitchens for her outstanding service and presented her with an Ellen Eccles sweatshirt. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm amidst a flurry of hugs and good-byes until next year.

Irene Halliday, Secretary/Treasurer
New MLA Newsletter Editor Sought

MLA is seeking applications for a new editor of the *MLA Newsletter*. The present editor will retire following the May-June 1997 issue, with the new appointment effective that July. The incoming editor will have the opportunity to observe the editorial process and collaborate with the present editor on the May-June issue.

The *Newsletter* editor is responsible for all facets of the *Newsletter*’s production and distribution. This includes setting a budget, gathering and editing news and articles, working with a local printer during production, and labeling and mailing the finished issue. Prospective editors should have access to electronic mail and be familiar with major word processing software packages.

The *Newsletter* editor receives support for expenses necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the position and an honorarium of $800.00 (1996/97 figure). The customary duration of the position is four years.

Applications should include the candidate’s qualifications and relevant experience, and samples of writing or editing if any. Applicants are also invited to submit a statement commenting on their philosophy toward the *Newsletter* and its function in MLA, particularly in the age of electronic communication.

Selected candidates will be asked to an interview with the *Newsletter* Editor Search Committee (Nancy Nuzzo, chair; Beth Christensen; and R. Wayne Shoaf) at the New Orleans meeting. If necessary, a telephone interview can be arranged.

Please address applications or nominations to Nancy Nuzzo, Chair, *MLA Newsletter* Editor Search Committee, Music Library, Baird Hall, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260-4700, by 22 November 1996.

Coda

Billy Rose commissioned a piece from Stravinsky for a New York revue, staged in 1945. On the opening night he cabled the composer:

"Your music great success stop could be sensational success if you would authorize robert russell bennett retouch orchestration stop bennett orchestrates even the works of cole porter"

Stravinsky replied:

"SATISFIED WITH GREAT SUCCESS"

— from *The Book of Musical Anecdotes* by Norman Lebrecht

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Mountain-Plains Chapter, MLA
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