Mountain Plains Chapter Music Library Association
Annual Meeting Report 2006

MPMLAers gathered in Denver, Colorado, May 18-20, 2006, welcomed by local arrangements chair Suzanne Moulton-Gertig. Early arrivals enjoyed a Thursday evening supper at the Kokoro Restaurant.

Friday morning’s session at Denver University’s new Lamont School of Music building began with an overview by Carolyn Dow (Polley Library, Lincoln, Nebraska) of her library’s webpage "The Music of Old Nebraska." She showed many examples from the collection and the voice we heard singing the songs was Carolyn’s. Tracy Melhuish (University of Denver) continued with "Virgil Thomson: An American Music Critic." An historical summary of this multi-faceted composer, his tenure as critic of the New York Herald Tribune and selected audio interviews interested attendees.

Janet Bradford (Brigham Young University) ended this session with "Introducing BYU’s Newest Manuscripts: The Talleyrand Collection of Operatic Works by Giovanni Paisiello." The collection, consisting of 68 bound volumes of copyists’ manuscripts, represents 52 of Paisiello’s 90 operas. Six of the operas are believed to be unique surviving copies.

A long lunch break provided opportunities to explore the impressive new building, the D.U. campus, and to look for bargains at a nearby book sale.

The Friday afternoon session began with Sarah Kleinsteiber’s (University of Denver) presentation. "Antonio the Alcoholic? Musical Depictions of Intoxication in Mozart’s Operas." She highlighted the harmonic progressions and melodic contours Mozart typically used to portray drunk characters, noting that these are not present in scenes involving Antonio, the gardner, in Le nozze di Figaro. Suzanne Moulton-Gertig (University of Denver) enlightened and entertained the group with "Missing Music, Questionable Politics, and Guilt by Association: Reznicek as Eulenspiegel".

Stephen Luttmann (University of Northern Colorado) concluded the session with "Collecting Jazz CDs: How? Why? Who Bothers?" After surveying the holdings of several dozen academic library music collections, he determined that the size of an institution’s jazz program correlates more closely with the size of the library’s jazz CD collection than the presence of graduate-level jazz programs. Steve discovered, however, that relatively few libraries in any group do well in building core collections. [Editor’s note: this "Best of Chapter" paper will be presented at the national MLA meeting in 2007.]

Conference attendees enjoyed a pizza party in the Penrose Music Library that evening and played a musical baseball game which tested their knowledge of obscure library trivia. The group celebrated Janet Bradford’s birthday, which was today, with a bakery delight.

Cheryl Taranto (UNLV) opened Saturday morning’s session with "Opera and the Pops: Core Repertory of ‘Popular’ Music 1820-1860." Myrna Layton (BYU) gave the final paper, "Your Bollywood Collection," introducing Bollywood film musicals to the novice. She presented several delightful examples and discussed the importance of music to Bollywood films and to Indian culture. She gave suggestions on how to build a core collection.

Lunch and business meeting followed.

--submitted by Janet Bradford
President Stephen Luttmann brought the business meeting to order. The minutes of the 2005 annual meeting in Reno, Nevada were approved with two typographical corrections: Orem for Oram (UT), Amy for Any (Hunsaker).

Chair's report (Stephen Luttmann)

There were no applicants for travel grants this year; consequently, none was awarded.

Steve reported details from the Chapter Chairs breakfast at February's MLA national meeting. As always, Steve Mantz welcomes chapter news, and Jane Subramanian encouraged participation in the Best of Chapters competition. In both these areas MPMLA comes out looking good.

To enhance MLA's endowed funds, the suggestion was made that chapters might wish to contribute, particularly to those that are not yet self-sustaining (the Freeman and Notes funds). Steve asked the membership how it felt about this. Some members expressed the sentiment that because MPMLA meetings are usually more expensive to attend, due to travel distances, if the chapter were to engage in fund raising it should be in order to enhance its travel grant offerings. (In fact, the MPMLA travel grant funds derive from an MLA grant to the chapter.) Steve noted that he did not apply for an additional grant from MLA to cover chapter travel grants, as $700 remains in this account. However, putting more money in this account may be topical a couple of years from now.

Secretary-Treasurer's report

On behalf of Daryll Stevens who could not attend the conference, Irene Halliday reported 15 registrants for this year's meeting, a slightly higher number from last year. Again, emergency situations seem to have kept a significant number of faithful attendees away this year.

A financial report from Daryll was distributed covering the fiscal year July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 (projected). It projects a negligible loss over the course of the year (beginning balance of $4305.19, projected ending balance of $4252.45. Both figures exclude the travel grant account.

New Business

Future meetings---Cheryl Taranto (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) agreed to host the 2007 meeting. Lori Stevens (Utah Valley State College) has offered to host an upcoming meeting at her institution in Orem, Utah, as soon as the new library facility there is ready, probably in 2009.

Election results--The following were candidates for office. Winners are indicated in bold and will begin their terms at the end of this meeting:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Brian Doherty, Carolyn Dow
Secretary-Treasurer: Janet Bradford, Amy Hunsaker
Member-at-Large: Myrna Layton

Cheryl Taranto assumed the Chair duties at the end of this meeting, and Steve Luttmann became Past Chair.

Best of Chapter vote

Attendees voted for MPMLA papers that will be forwarded to MLA's Best of Chapter Committee. These papers will be considered for possible presentation at next year's MLA meeting. The two winners were Myrna Layton's "Your Bollywood Collection" and Steve Luttmann's "Collecting Jazz CDs: How and Why, and Who Bothers?" The vote counters (Janet Bradford and Sebastian Derry) noted that the vote was close among the four highest-ranked papers, and several members commented that the slate of papers was unusually good.

Comment to the Good of the Order

Steve thanked Suzanne for hosting a well-organized, problem-free, and thoughtfully arranged meeting. This was met with enthusiastic applause from the membership, several of whom also commented approvingly on the meeting's relaxed pace.

Steve handed the Fork of Command to new Chair, Cheryl Taranto.

---submitted by Stephen Luttmann, Past Chair
NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

Brigham Young University

In collaboration with the Utah Viola Society, BYU hosted a visit this month from Ulrich Drüner, a prominent European antique music collector/dealer, musicologist, and violist, and his wife. A combination lecture/recital was held Oct. 17 in the BYU Harris Fine Arts Center. Dr. Claudine Bigelow, head of viola studies at BYU, assisted Herr Drüner in performing some of the gems from the Ulrich collection obtained by BYU.

Myrna Layton continues her interest in India and Indian music. She is studying the Hindi language and enjoys listening to Indian music and watching Indian films. (She gave a presentation on both at the Denver MPMLA meeting last May.)

Myrna is also studying the Icelandic language with her son Patrick. She says it is more difficult than Hindi to learn.

Colorado College

This fall the library implemented automated circulation, under the tutelage of Annette Megney who was recently promoted to Circulation Services Coordinator. The staff loves the new system.

The library continues to expand usage of online audio reserves which has received an enthusiastic response from students and faculty.

Don Roberts

Don enjoyed another summer music season in Santa Fe, with superb performances by the Desert Chorale (Don is on the Board), the Santa Fe Opera, and the Chamber Music Festival. At various performances, Don saw Charles King, retired from the Univ. of Ariz. and a former member of MPMLA, Judith Kaufmann, formerly a librarian at SUNY-Stony Brook, and chapter member Dennis Davies-Wilson.

Don and Sally just returned from Attu in the Aleutians, and will soon be in India riding steam trains. Fun!

Jenny Williams

Jenny’s son-in-law, James Ault, age 39, died August 19 of bone cancer. Jenny and Clea cut short their summer travels in July to go home to Tempe to give support to Jenny’s daughter and family. We in the chapter send our condolences.

New Mexico State University

Gary Mayhood received the Silver Star Award for Excellence for his work as an instructor in the Library Technology Program at the Dona Ana Branch Community College. He has been on-line teaching library science courses at the branch since 2001.

Beginning in Jan. 2007, the Technical Services Dept in the NMSU Library will be completely reorganized. Gary will be Head of the Post Cataloging Unit and will train other technical services personnel in music cataloging with most of the music to be cataloged outsourced. Gary feels disheartened with the change in administrative policy.

University of Denver, Lamont School of Music

Leigh Townsend, a staff member, is on the board of the Colorado Wind Ensemble. Leigh has a masters in bassoon from Wichita State.

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig is enjoying a more manageable grad studies class, with 18 students. She can spend more time on their homework papers. She is still playing harp with various orchestras in the area.

A bumper crop of undergraduates keeps all the staff busy.

University of New Mexico, Los Alamos

Dennis Davies-Wilson taught an opera course during the summer session at UNM-Los Alamos. It included a general overview of opera and specifically the five operas performed at the Santa Fe Opera’s 50th Anniversary season: Carmen, the Magic Flute, Cendrillon, Salome, and The Tempest. One of the students in the class created an exhibit for the library entitled “Salome Unveiled” which featured a history of Salome from the Biblical account to Oscar Wilde’s play to Strauss’ infamous opera.

The library recently hosted exhibits with accompanying lectures and book signings, including the Penetente tradition in northern New Mexico, and a Mexican folk healing tradition known as Curanderismo. The latter featured a lecture by Dr. Eliseo “Cheo” Torres, who has studied and practiced this tradition most of his life. Dr. Torres offered a class at UNM last summer which was featured in an article in the New York Times.

Utah Valley State College

Lori Stevens has her first grandchild, a girl born Sept. 20. After 25 years in the defense/computer industry, Lori’s husband is working on an MLS degree through Drexel’s on-line program.

Ground was broken for the new library scheduled to be finished in the spring of 2008. Lori hopes to host MPMLA in Orem in 2008.
Welcome New Members!
Margaret Kaus, Associate Professor and Original Cataloger at KSU Libraries in Manhattan, Kansas. Linda Tietjen in Lakewood, Colorado.
Jennifer Matthews, Music Librarian, Dulaney-Browne Library, Oklahoma City University. Jennifer McIntosh, moved from Chicago, now lives in Casper, Wyoming.

Annual Meetings
The MLA national meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, Feb. 26-Mar. 3, 2007.
The MPMLA meeting will be in Las Vegas probably May 18-19, 2007.

Jean Jensen, Editor
MPMLA newsletter
97 North 3820 West
Hurricane, UT 84737

Note
Brian Doherty, Ph.D. and Head of the Music Library at Arizona State University in Tempe, took a position as director of the library at the ASU Polytechnic campus, effective July 3. He stated: "It’s been great working with all of you. I’ll miss seeing you at MLA/MPMLA meetings." We’ll miss you, too, Brian!
Since Brian was elected MPMLA Chair Elect last May, Myrna Layton of BYU was appointed to fulfill those duties until the annual meeting next May, at which time there will be an election for that position.
The Membership Directory included with this issue has been removed from the online version for reasons of security.