From Our Chapter Chair

Greetings to all members of the Mountain Plains Chapter! It seems odd to be writing the chair’s message since I still feel like a newbie in the chapter—but after seven years, I guess I am not so new anymore. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you. There are many newer members and we are so happy to have the chance to get to know you and learn from your music library experiences. Most recently, we welcome Steve…and Steve! I think that makes triplets.

It was good to see so many of you at the chapter meeting in Provo in May. We had a great conference, with many interesting papers. Best of all, it was a chance to renew friendships and learn from each other. Some of us went on a “tree tour” of the BYU campus for the post-meeting meeting. Sadly, Anita lost her binoculars just before the tour. Happily, someone turned them in to the BYU Lost and Found, and we were able to reunite the two eventually. Trust me, if you lose something on the BYU campus and it ends up in the lost and found, your item will be SAFE with a capital S! It was very hard to break those binoculars out!

Right now in our library, there is much concern about the future of the library and the need to supply online resources—perhaps this is a hot topic in your libraries as well. In our particular Music Library, we are finding that all of our resources are being well used, whether virtual or print. We hope this means we music librarians are a valuable commodity. After all, how many music librarians does it take to change a light bulb? SCORES!! We hope that all of you will mark your calendars for 2009 events. First of all, we have the chance to get together in February and learn at MLA in Chicago. We will plan on a chapter dinner meeting while we are there, which Anita Breckbill, our vice-chair, will be planning for us. In May, we will be able to get together in Beautiful Big Sky Country, Montana. Tammy Ravas is planning great things for us there! These will be great learning and networking opportunities for all of us, and I hope that most of you will be able to participate at one or both.

In the meantime, we will all just keep on working, making our music libraries wonderful places where our students and faculty members can find good, reliable information and all the scores, sound recordings and video recordings they need. If it seems the students are getting younger every year (and you know it isn’t because we are getting older…) just remember this little joke, courtesy of everynote.com: A young child says to his mother, “Mom, when I grow up, I think I want to be a musician.” She replies “Well, honey, you know you can’t do both…”

At least we are all eternally young together!

Myrna Layton, MPMLA chair
MPMLA members congregated in Provo, Utah for their annual spring meeting on May 15-17, 2008. Early arrivals enjoyed a lasagna dinner hosted by Irene Halliday at her lovely home in Highland Thursday evening.

Friday morning, Scott Duvall, Assistant University Librarian at BYU, gave a hearty welcome to attendees following registration, bagels and juices. Sessions that day were held in the seminar room of the Music/Dance section of the Harold B. Lee Library.

Myrna Layton moderated the Friday morning session starting with a paper by Anita Breckbill (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) entitled *Liberated Scores from WWII in the Music Library*. Anita told the story of an American soldier who amassed a collection of scores from estates in Germany during World War II. These scores are now housed at her library. Rebecca Schroeder (Brigham Young University) followed with an overview of music acquisitions at BYU and ideas for finding unusual materials. Next, Jared Howland and Tom Wright, both from Brigham Young University, presented their findings from a comparative search/result study between Google Scholar and subject specific databases. Two students from BYU completed the morning’s lineup: Lindsay Weaver spoke about developing an online database in her presentation, *The Bibliography of Music Bibliography and Reference: Beyond Duckles*. Darcy Whetten gave her perspective as a curator with *The Crawford Gates Archive: A Case Study in Developing a Living Composer’s Archive*. Both of these students have received grant monies to participate at the IAML meeting in Italy this summer.

After a relaxing lunch break, David Day (Brigham Young University) began the afternoon session with *From Indie Rock to Global Pop: Access to the Musical Press of the 21st Century*. Cheryl Taranto (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) next presented *Theodore Thomas in Chicago: The Repertoire and the Symphony*. Annie Erickson (BYU cataloger) followed by introducing attendees to many of the musical instruments on exhibit in the area. Jean Jensen (Utah State University, retired) rounded off the afternoon with *Westward Ho! Pioneer Songs along the Way*. These presentations were moderated by Irene Halliday.

Members drove up beautiful Provo Canyon Friday evening to dine at the Snake Creek Grill in Heber City. This quaint turn-of-the-century-styled restaurant is located close to Soldier Hollow, the cross-country ski and biathlon venue for the 2002 Olympics. (cont.)

Saturday morning, members gathered in the Library’s Conference Room for breakfast foods and pre-session conversations. Thomas Cimarusti (Texas Tech University) got the meeting underway after some technical difficulties with his paper entitled *A Neapolitan Collection of Paisiello Manuscripts at Brigham Young University*. Doug Jacobson (BYU cataloging assistant) presided over this session and next introduced Andrew Snow, BYU student, who read *Documenting the Legacy of M. P. Belaieff*. This paper was written by Daniel Heintz, a recent graduate who was touring eastern states with the chamber orchestra—he will be presenting this paper at IAML in July. Christopher Davis (Emporia State University MLIS student) followed with *Outsourcing of Cataloging*. Steven Luttmann (University of Colorado, Greeley) gave insights into particular Hindemith compositions with *Paul Hindemith’s Mathis and Harmonie Works: Matters of Primacy and Tradition*. Laura McMurtrey (part-time cataloging assistant at BYU) provided pre-lunch entertainment by singing her favorite songs as well as imitating various Disney princesses. After lunch and the business meeting, some members lingered for a tree tour of campus (those who missed the in-person tour can link here for a virtual experience [http://pws.byu.edu/tree_tour/index.htm](http://pws.byu.edu/tree_tour/index.htm))

**MPMLA Business Meeting**

**May 17, 2008**

MPMLA Chapter Chair, Cheryl Taranto, called the meeting to order at 12:48 p.m. She gave a big thank you to the BYU team for pulling this conference together on short notice. Minutes of the 2007 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, were read and approved.

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report** (Janet Bradford):

Attendance bolstered by BYU students and staff is up this year to 23. Financially, the chapter’s account is stable with a projected end of conference balance of $4,642.71—see accompanying report for an itemized accounting.

**Chair’s Report** (Cheryl Taranto)

The MLA Education Committee is willing to fund $500 to do workshops for three state association meetings. Carolyn Dow volunteered to find out when those annual conferences are held for the various states represented in our chapter area. Since our chapter faces such severe geographic challenges, it was suggested that we might develop a regional model like the “train the trainer” Library of Congress sessions. All agreed, however, that the most viable solution would be a distant education option such as a videoconference or webcast.

**New Business:**

2009 meeting: Tammy Ravas (University of Montana) will host next year’s meeting in Missoula. Members were asked to submit proposals for 2010 meetings and beyond to the chapter board.

Newsletter: Jean Jensen will step down as editor of *The Conventional Title*. After some discussion, it was decided to change to electronic-only format and the board will appoint a new editor. The secretary/treasurer was asked to mail out a current membership list via e-mail attachment once a year rather than posting online.

**MPMLA Website:** The board will contact Laurie Eagleson, historian, to see if she is willing to continue maintaining our website. We discussed the need for a permanent archive and agreed to contact Bonna Boettcher to determine MLA’s policy on this matter.

*Newsletter, cont.*
Election results: Anita Breckbill was elected as the new Vice-Chair/Chair Elect; Janet Bradford will continue as Secretary/Treasurer; and Tammy Ravas will serve as Member-at-Large.

Best of Chapter:

Attendees voted for MPMLA papers that will be forwarded to MLA's Best of Chapter Committee (Tammy Ravas, MPMLA’s own, is chair). The two winners were *From Indie Rock to Global Pop: Access to the Musical Press of the 21st Century* by David Day and *Paul Hindemith’s Mathis and Harmonie Works: Matters of Primacy and Tradition* by Steven Luttmann. It was noted that all presentations were diverse and informative and that voting was again very close.

Other Items of Business:

Irene Halliday will be retiring at the end of the summer. Members again expressed thanks to the BYU team for the meeting. Thomas Bell and Christopher Davis expressed additional appreciation for being welcomed as our newest members and first-time attendees.

Cheryl passed the ceremonial “fork of command” to Myrna Layton and the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Janet Bradford, Secretary/Treasurer*

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**Financial report 2007-2008**

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*BYU library paid for all food breaks and van rental*

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*Newsletter, cont.*
MEMBER NEWS

Irene Halliday, who has been with us for so many years in many capacities in MPMLA, has retired from BYU. We are counting on Irene’s still being a part of MPMLA, and can’t imagine her not being part of us. Writing to Irene now is still easy. She has remained on mpmla-l, and her new home email address is: reneron549@msn.com

While we hate to see our number retire, for sometimes they actually do leave us, too, we are happy to welcome new members, as well. This last year we had the pleasure of adding to our membership ranks and Christopher Davis (Arizona State) and Thomas Bell (Kansas State. . . . Yes, we are reclaiming Kansas for MPMLA!).

Most recently, we have gained two new members:

Steven Nordstrom (BYU)
Steven_Nordstrom@BYU.edu

Janet Bradford reports:

We are pleased to announce that Steven Nordstrom will be joining us in the Music/Dance Library here at BYU on October 13th. He will replace Irene Halliday who recently retired. Steve's responsibilities will cover a wide gamut including reference, cataloging, collection development, and web design.

MPMLA members will remember Steve, for he was with us for a few years while he was a student at BYU. Welcome back, Steve, and congratulations on your new appointment!

Stephen Mantz (CU-Boulder) Music Catalog Librarian
Stephen.Mantz@Colorado.edu

Steve comes to us from Davidson College, where he was Music Librarian from 1994-2008, and Sound Recordings Cataloger (1993-1994). You may remember that Steve is the new MLA Newsletter editor, and is also currently on the ballot for Member-at-Large for the MLA Board. Steve adds, “Beyond that, I play sax, and have a red-haired 6-year-old daughter. Davidson is a liberal arts college of 1600 students; I was a jack-of-all-trades (cataloging, reference, systems, etc. (and their first professional music librarian.” Welcome to MPMLA, Steve!

OTHER NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Edward Louis Cahall Edward.Cahall@nau.edu

Ed writes:
Just a minor bit of news here, but major for me - I'm no longer at the Library. I'm now the Program Coordinator for the Faculty Development Program at NAU. I still plan on keeping up my MPMLA membership (better get that check sent in...) and trying to get to conferences whenever I can, though. I'll miss the music library work, but as one of our other librarians (who also recently quit and escaped to Nebraska) said, at least that library is no longer "sucking the life blood out of me"...
Hope all is well in the Rockies! -Ed

Stephen Luttmann, Stephen.Luttmann@unco.edu

Steve writes that he:
“spent the summer on sabbatical, working on the second edition of his Paul Hindemith: A Guide to Research. A research grant from his university provost enabled him to spend two weeks in Europe, where he actually conducted research. Print and online publication is scheduled for early 2009.”

BEST OF CHAPTER PAPER TO BE PRESENTED AT MLA 2009 IN CHICAGO - - - DAVID DAY!

Congratulations to David Day. His paper was awarded Best of Chapter for the Chicago MLA meeting. Be sure to note that Best of Chapter presentations will be on Saturday, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM.

Newsletter, cont.
LOOKING AHEAD TO THE MAY 2009 MEETING!

Tammy Ravas wrote us an email to all that warrants reprinting:
Hi Everyone, I just wanted to let you know about some preliminary details for the next annual MPMLA conference in Missoula, MT.

The dates for the conference will be **Thursday May 7th through Saturday May 9th**. Yes, I know that this is not traditionally when the conference would be held; however, graduation takes place at UM the next weekend. The meetings will be held at the Mansfield Library in our Buckhous Room.

There is a **change of plans for the conference hotel** for our annual Meeting in May. The conference hotel is now the **Holiday Inn Downtown** (406)-721-8550 (be sure to say that you are with MPMLA for the discounted rate. They have agreed to give us a break on the room price during the dates of the conference at $109/night. If you plan on vacationing in MT after the conference, depending on room availability, they have agreed to keep the same rate for the duration of your stay.

If you are thinking of attending the conference, I must stress the importance of booking your room as soon as possible. As it gets closer to graduation in Missoula, hotels tend to fill up very quickly and very far ahead in advance. The Holiday Inn Downtown recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation and the space, facilities, and rooms are very nice. It is situated on the Clark-Fork river and there is a complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport as well as to and from UM where the conference will be held!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Missoula this May!
Best wishes, Tammy
E-mail: tammy.ravas@umontana.edu

A REMINDER ABOUT THE MPMLA WEBSITE

**Laurie Eagleson**, who has been our faithful historian and website guru wrote the following some months ago:

Now that the MPMLA web site has been moved to our new library web server, the address has once again changed. After some discussion with our systems staff, I managed to get the old URL back, which is:  
[http://www.library.arizona.edu/mpmla/](http://www.library.arizona.edu/mpmla/)
(You’ll notice when you get there that a different address appears in the location bar, which it where the site *really* lives, but I wanted to keep a more “official” looking URL to give to the outside world as the MPMLA Homepage. Any bookmarks will show the real address however.)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR CHANGE

After many years, Jean Jensen has retired as our newsletter editor. We appreciate all the years of work Jean put in for the chapter. She deserves a break and our hearty thanks for a job well done. As the lacunae in our chapter are found, we always manage to find people to stick their fingers in the holes to keep things going. After several years off the chapter board, I find myself ready once more to serve in some capacity. As a result, you must contend with me pestering you for news and items relevant to chapter proceedings. Yes, the Badgirl is your new **Conventional Title** editor. Please feel free to send me items for the spring newsletter to me at:  
suzanne.moulton-gertig@du.edu

Best wishes to all of you, and hope to see as many of you as possible at Chicago in February for MLA 2009,
Suzanne (The Badgirl of the Rockies)