Hello everyone- I’m writing this while observing a steady downpour, complete with thunder, currently enveloping Colorado’s Front Range regions. We’re hoping to escape predicted floods! It’s been a beautiful autumn, with temperatures finally in the comfortable 70s.

This is my first year as chapter Chair. I’m following the big footsteps of those of you have served in the past: I relish the opportunity to serve you well, and will be picking the collective brain as I move forward in this role. I have the iconic fork! May it serve me well.

It was great to see so many of our group last May, when Matt Stock and Beth Fleming co-hosted our annual meeting at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. I’ve never stayed in a U.S. Postal training center before—a great facility with many amenities, including a type of geese (or duck?) unknown to me, whose members regularly attended patio snack times, encouraging handouts. We missed several members who we’ll hope to catch up with later. In particular, I mention the absence of Badgirl (aka Suzanne Moulton-Gertig), a stalwart of our gatherings and our profession (and holder of MPMLA’s “cultural” memories) for years. We wish her well as she refocuses her energies in retirement. Thanks go to Myrna Layton, who has graciously agreed to succeed Suzanne as our Listserv Manager. Additionally, a shout out to those of who have joined our chapter recently!
This meeting offered excellent papers on a variety of topics. Congratulations are due to Maristella Feustle. Her paper, *Identifying the Illusive Charles B. Ward*, one of two winners for best presentation in Norman, was selected for inclusion in the Best of Chapters session at the MLA 2015 conference. We were treated to a tour of the organ collection of OU’s American Organ Institute. Jeremy Wance, Assistant to the Director of the Institute, taught us to expect the unexpected as he regaled us with sounds from the University organs. We concluded our tour viewing organ rolls and examining details of pipe construction at the Organ Shop.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming events in 2005. MLA’s annual meeting will be in Denver this year in late February, early March. Laurie Sampsel is busy heading a committee making preparations for this conference. We’ll gather together at a chapter dinner during this week, at a restaurant that Chris Mehrens, our vice-chair, will select for us. I challenge him to find something finer than the memorable venue I selected at the San Jose meeting a few years back. In May, Sean Luyk will host MPMLA’s meeting in Edmonton, Alberta (I must renew my passport!). I always look forward to the great opportunities for learning and networking that these meetings bring.

Meanwhile, we enjoy having our students back each fall and are energized by their curiosities, ideas, requests, and especially their attempts to make new uses of library resources and staff. May we be continually delighted by the communities we serve and be challenged to consider new possibilities as they emerge. Or, so I remind myself as I face an interruption while practicing administrivia.

Enjoy the fall season!

Daryll Stevens, MPMLA chair

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Dear MPMLA members,

I am thrilled to be hosting the 2015 MPMLA chapter meeting (May 15-16, 2015) here at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta. Some of you may remember meeting in Calgary and Banff in the 1980s, but this marks the first time that our chapter will meet in Edmonton, Alberta’s capital city, and home to Canada’s second largest research library.

Arrangements are underway, so expect to hear more on the listserv in the coming months.

Sean Luyk, University of Alberta
There are openings for Music Librarians in our Chapter! Encourage your friends to apply, so they can join the BEST CHAPTER OF MLA: Mountain Plains!

BYU is hiring a cataloguer for Music and Dance materials: 

The University of Denver is hiring a Music and Performing Arts Reference Librarian: 

Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, is hiring a Librarian – Music Specialist: 

**Chapter News**

**Suzanne Moulton-Gertig – Retired**

Howdy from Dover, NH!

After retiring on July 1, John and I loaded a 25-ft U-HAUL truck and hired a driver for it, threw the two harps and two cats in our cars and drove across the country. We made it in four fairly hard days of driving. Since we arrived, we've been taking care of the major fixes to our State-of-the-Art 1983 manufactured home (AKA trailer), like fixing the air conditioner and the ductwork underneath that provides the flow of both said air conditioning and heat to the place. The painting: yes, everything inside and out, including the 10X10 shed (a Godsend for things that we use only occasionally). The trees and bushes on the very large (really too large - larger than our property in Colorado) are all overgrown after at least ten years of neglect, so I'm getting very good at pruning and Draconian elimination of branches and volunteer growth.

It's nothing like Colorado; I feel like we inherited a rainforest property here.

Despite all this, I'm really enjoying retirement. Still working away on my Reznicek tome, got an article published in the newest *American Harp Journal*, and continue to do their Recent Publications Column, so I haven't gone totally stagnant on the music scene. Restringing both harps, for they hated the new humid environment and starting popping strings all over the place. Life is good. John and I leave for Germany on Monday and will float up the Rhine and be as indolent as possible for a couple of weeks, then come back and tackle the house (trailer) again.

We went to our first concert at the University of NH last night. Soprano Jenni Cook and pianist Elizabeth Blood did a wonderfully diverse and musically delightful program of Bernstein, Poulenc, Mozart, Rodrigo, Schubert, and
Rachmaninov. The pianist is the daughter of two of my undergraduate chums, Charlie and Judy, from the time I was UNH my freshman and sophomore year. What a treat to hear Elizabeth and see Charlie and Judy after 44 years. Jenni’s newest CD is due out next spring.

OK, so that’s the newest with me. I’m sure I’ll see some of you again; John is talking about a trip out to CO around February. . . . :)

Best wishes,

Suzanne (the Badgirl) Moulton-Gertig

Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University

Catalogers have been busy at BYU with several projects. Janet oversaw an inventory of the LPs in our Music Recordings Archive this summer to determine how many still need to be cataloged. We discovered we have only have around 4500 yet to go! That’s good news but the bad news is that these will all need original cataloging. Janet is also supervising a new project of cataloging our 78 rpm recordings. These records are being loaded into OCLC so as you are searching for recordings you may start to see holdings at UBY there. Thus far we have cataloged just over 9000 records.

Doug has been supervising a project to give all our media (CDs, DVDs, Blu-Rays, etc.) LC call numbers. This multi-year project was finished this spring. Because he did such a good job he has now been given the assignment to head up a similar project with our general media center. We are not sure if congratulations or sympathies are in order.

Janice continues to catalog RARE scores that involve lots of detective work. Another project we started this summer is to catalog all of the miscellaneous sheet music. We are calling it the Historic Sheet Music Collection and have cataloged around 1900 titles thus far.

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Janet’s daughter, Emily, decided to serve a mission for the LDS church and entered the mission training center in Provo on September 3rd for two weeks of orientation. She is now in her assigned area in Pickerington, Ohio. She will be gone for 18 months.

Stephen Luttmann - University of Northern Colorado

During his August trip to Thailand, Steve Luttmann provided a goodly amount of behind-the-scenes work (gofering and such) for the premiere of The Harmony of Chimes, the new symphony by the dean of Thai composers, Narongrit Dhamabutra. The work, an ASEAN commission, features the interaction of folk musicians and instruments from five countries in the region (Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam) with Western symphony orchestra.

Meanwhile the University of Northern Colorado finally has its own streaming service! After
nearly two decades’ worth of bureaucratic reluctance, the University’s information technology folks finally realized that it was paying outrageous sums of money to Blackboard because professors were loading hundreds of audio and video clips to Blackboard—and the University pays Blackboard by the gigabyte for server space. We’re using the Ensemble video service for both audio and video files . . . and so far so good.

Daryll Stevens – Colorado College

Change seems a constant at Colorado College—particularly in a time when liberal arts colleges are struggling to justify their expensive education model. Our President is committed to strengthening the College’s position in the higher education market; she has established several proactive initiatives to maintain a competitive edge. Part of this is repurposing the main library’s long-scheduled renovation. Amorphous plans encompass the conversion and slight expansion of current library space to constitute the physical face of the new Center for Immersive Learning and Engaged Teaching, to break ground in fall 2016. Apparently we will be sharing space with several other campus departments in addition to our current roommates at the Help Desk and Learning Commons. Our Library Director has prompted librarians to reimagine ourselves, to demonstrate our value beyond traditional library services, reaching out to the Colorado College community in ways previously unimagined and unexplored. We know we are well-appreciated by our campus. Yet, we constantly face the common belief that everything is available online...

For the moment, we are weeding! We’ve been charged to eliminate 15% of the collection to make room for more student space and collection growth in the new Center. Music Library staff are concurrently weeding books from the main library—which holds most of the MLs—and the Music Library (which resides in the music/art building). You’ve been seeing some of our discarded items offered up to new homes via the MLA list. More to come. Our goal is to make room for any books that must come to our collection from the main library, as well as create space for our extensive backlog of
donated instrumental music. Music Library staff also intend to tackle the remodeling of our current space (phase 4 of a multi-year project) and train students in basic cataloging to help us whittle down our gifts backlog—and finally interest IT in helping us create—or better yet, buy—a tool that provides access to streamed-audio reserves from off campus!

**Anita Breckbill - University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

The University Libraries at UNL is creating a Learning Commons from a large space in the main library. The process has catalyzed much book moving, furniture purchasing, and decorating decision-making. The Music Library has been the recipient of some new/used furniture that has given our reading room more, and cuter, seating.

The accompanying pictures are of the Music Library staff (from left: Whit Nobel, Anita Breckbill, Charlie Leftridge), taken to send to our favorite donor, Jack Rokahr, on the occasion of his 92nd birthday. Charlie is the artist of the cartoon.

Amidst other important work, the Music Library staff is thinking about creating a wildlife habitat in our basement rooms. We’ll start the habitat with tasiers and iguanas and move out from there as conditions allow. There has also been some discussion about housing and displaying the skeleton of the Dreadnaughtus. We think the body can be in the reading room and the tail can extend into the stacks.

**Janice Bunker - Brigham Young University**

Life is beautiful at the Harold B. Lee Music and Dance Library! I have lately been working on volumes containing scores for different pieces by different composers. Because all of these were hand-copied as separate scores in the late 1700s / early 1800s, did not contain opera titles, and were later bound together, the cataloging was circuitous and tricky. Most of the time I searched for clues to the operas from which the pieces were excerpted using the
character’s names from the captions, or using the first five words of the lyrics.

One piece said it was by “Giuseppe Weyglo”, of whom there was no trace, but the lyrics search resulted in the opera L’Amor Marinaro by Joseph Weigl, 1766-1846! Another score had no title whatsoever, but had an inscription on the flyleaf saying it was a gift from Edward Craig (i.e. E. Carrick) to Albi Rosenthal. It contained manuscripts of opera excerpts by Andre Campra and Jean-Baptiste Lully, but the most interesting thing about it was an accompanying notebook with “Research notes that I had made to trace the songs and dances. E. Carrick” written in pen on the cover. The notes were made in a different hand, so I assume Carrick meant he had hired someone else to do the research, which meant I didn’t have to! The researcher noted down which British libraries s/he visited to look at original scores for comparison. I decided to use the vendor title: “The Carrick-Rosenthal manuscript of early French opera”. Then, of course, I got to learn how to make bound-with records in our catalog, which wasn’t hard but required concentration on picky details.

In addition to the research fun in my life, I’ve had lots of family fun. I spent a week in August backpacking in the Uintah mountains with my husband, 4 other adults, and about 30 teenagers between 14 and 19, two of whom belong to me. We did a total of 60 miles, including hiking and biking, archery, reflector ovens, MRE-type meals, bear bags, and (best of all), a day at some gorgeous hot pots.

Then my family started preparations for my oldest son’s wedding, which was September 10 in Boston. It was lovely, and we got to visit Bunker Hill (yes, we are related)!

Bunkers at Bunker Hill: Reuben, Joseph, Nathaniel, Sariah, Bethany. Newlyweds were asked to photoshop themselves behind the last pillar!

My children loved driving around in the huge black rented Suburban because “we look like the FBI!” They were amazed that in a 6-hour span of time, we could have visited four different states.

Nathaniel (15), Reuben (9), Joseph (13), Sariah (17), Chris (22), Bethany (19). We were in the rented Suburban, my husband was navigating, and I was driving really fast so we wouldn’t be late to the wedding. I failed. We were 15 minutes late.

As soon as we arrived home from the wedding, we began getting my daughter ready to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to Louisville, Kentucky. Shopping, shopping, packing, doctor’s appointments, speaking in church, and more shopping! As of
today (Oct. 13), she has two more days to go, and she is just starting to pack her suitcases. She mentioned to me while we were at the wedding that next June marks the halfway point: I’ll have the first child married and in college, the second child on a mission, and the third child on her way to her freshman year of college, leaving only three children at home.

And, since downpours happen in threes, the full-time music cataloging position at BYU was posted at the end of September, so I spent a week tweaking things to submit when I applied for the job.

After this, the holiday season will be small potatoes!

Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University

Hello everyone! I hope that you enjoy this latest issue of Conventional Title! It is my pleasure to serve you and our organization as the editor. Thank you so much to all who submitted news and photos!

I am also happy to serve as the manager of the listserve. If you have any items of business or information to share with your peers in MPMLA, please send an e-mail to me at myrna_layton@byu.edu and I see that all the members of the organization receive it!

(http://musicempowersfoundation.com/)
MPMLA TRAVEL GRANT

Chapter Meeting: Edmonton, Alberta     May 16-17, 2015
Chapter web page: http://intranet.library.arizona.edu/users/eagleson/mpmla/

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 25, 2015

Eligibility: The scholarship provides monetary support for attendance at chapter meetings. The applicant must be a chapter member in good standing or agree to join the chapter upon receiving the award. Preference will be given to first-time attendees who are music librarians or library school students in the Mountain Plains area: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming--and the Canadian province of Alberta. Preference will also be given to those who are presenting at the meeting and to librarians from the Mountain Plains area in their first five years of employment in a music library.

Applications directly from individuals and nominations from chapter members are encouraged.

Date of application:

Name of applicant:

Applicant’s email address:

Name of library school, employing library, or other affiliation:

Degree date or no. of years in position:

Name of nominating chapter member, if applicable:

Please describe the applicant’s achievements and interests in music librarianship (up to 200 words). Note previous MLA or MPMLA meetings attended, if applicable, and whether or not the applicant will be presenting at the MPMLA annual meeting. The applicant should also submit a brief budget for travel and lodging.

Please submit application by e-mail or U.S. mail to:

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