Greetings all!

Our Rocky Mountain spring is here...with the typical promise for sudden lurches into winter weather until at least June 1st. Colorado College is busy this April with visits from admitted students, following a record year of over 8,000 applicants for under 500 spots.

At Colorado College our libraries continue weeding projects, anticipating the main library’s upcoming renovation scheduled to begin late in 2016. Architect plans are being reviewed and

future denizens of the expanded spaces are gathering to determine adjacencies and plans for collaborations. What we’re lacking at present is a name for this new center. I’ll keep you posted!

It was great to see so many of you at the MLA meeting in Denver. What a rich selection to be had; we were treated to stimulating sessions, opportunities to make connections with old and new friends, and the chance to explore a great western city and its surroundings. And I constantly reveled in the supreme pleasure of not having had to fly to get there! Kudos go to our own Laurie Sampsel, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, and her intrepid band of volunteers.
Sean Luyk is hosting MPMLA’s upcoming annual meeting to be held May 14th-16th at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Check out his [website](#) for information on what promises to be a great event. Myrna Layton and Anita Breckbill are our Program Committee; please submit your proposal today to myrna_layton@byu.edu and/or abreckbill1@unl.edu. These two trailblazers suggest that we consider alternative proposals—such as ideas for panels, lightening rounds, workshops, performances, or other things.

Additionally, I invite you to submit agenda items for our chapter meeting, to be held on Saturday following the final presentation. Here are a few items I’ve been considering:

- capturing oral histories of chapter members, via MLA’s Oral History Project
- establishing a scholarship fund for students attending library/information graduate programs who intend to be music librarians

What are you thinking? What projects should we be undertaking, what issues should we address?

I look forward to seeing you in May and wish you a felicitous romp through the spring season.

Sincerely,
Daryll Stevens
Chair, MPMLA
Dstevens@coloradocollege.edu

We had a great time at MLA in Denver! Some highlights included a tour of Denver Public Library’s Western History Collection and the Silent Movie night with the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra, watching *The General*. Thanks to Laurie and Eric for arranging such fun things for us to do! (The meetings and papers were also good!)
From Our Host:

The 2015 Mountain Plains Music Library Association meeting will take place May 15-16 in Edmonton, Alberta, at the School of Library & Information Studies at the University of Alberta. Please be sure to check out the meeting website for more details: <https://sites.google.com/a/ualberta.ca/mpmla2015/>

Edmonton holds the distinction of being the northernmost North American city with a population over one million. Our chapter meeting will, therefore, hold the world record for the highest latitude that an MLA meeting has been held! Edmonton also boasts the largest urban park system in North America in our river valley, so let’s hope that the weather cooperates, which it should this time of year (usually between 50-68°).

Registration is $20 and the conference hotel is the Lister Centre, where a combination of hotel style and residence rooms have been blocked off until April 14 (although rooms may be available after this date). The conference rate is $69 per night for residence rooms and $99 per night for hotel style rooms. When you make your reservation please identify yourself as an MPMLA member and reserve your room using the MPMLA room reservation form. The Skyshuttle offers round trip service to the Lister Centre from Edmonton International Airport for $30. Book your trip here.

We will be meeting in the School of Library & Information Studies, which is located in Rutherford Library South, about a 10 minute walk from the Lister Centre. Registration will take place in the foyer of the entrance to the School, and sessions will take place on the second floor of the building in room 2-09.

The Thursday evening dinner (May 14) get together for early arrivers will take place at the High Level Diner, an Edmonton institution. You can view the menu here. Thursday nights are Ukrainian nights, so for those of you with a taste for pyrogys, sausage, and cabbage rolls, you’re in for a treat! The High Level Diner is about a 15 minute walk from Lister Centre. For those of you attending, we’ll depart the Lister...
Centre lobby at 6:40 PM for our 7 PM reservation.

The Friday evening dinner (May 15) will take place at the Upper Crust Café, which offers excellent meals using locally sourced ingredients. The Upper Crust Café is about a 15 minute walk from the Lister Centre. We’ll depart the Lister Centre lobby at 6:40 PM for our 7 PM reservation. A social excursion after dinner is being planned, and more details will be sent on MPMLA-L as they become available.

We will hold our lunch and business meeting in the School of Library & Information Studies. For those of you with additional guests, additional lunch tickets can be purchased for $20.

If you would like to attend, please complete the registration form by April 30th. I look forward to seeing you in Edmonton this May!

Sean Luyk
University of Alberta

There is an opening for a Music Librarian in our Chapter! Encourage your friends to apply, so they can join the BEST CHAPTER OF MLA: Mountain Plains!

PERFORMING ARTS and HUMANITIES LIBRARIAN

The University of Kansas Libraries seeks a knowledgeable, creative, and motivated individual for the position of Performing Arts and Humanities Librarian. The successful candidate will be a member of the Content Development Department which is dedicated to the stewardship of the University of Kansas Libraries’ collections in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Members of the Content Development team work collaboratively to strategize about directions in managing the development and review of the Libraries’ collections to support University initiatives. The incumbent will oversee collections supporting the research and curricular needs of faculty, staff, and students in music, musicology, music therapy/education, dance, theater, and film, as well as other assigned disciplines in the humanities and/or social sciences. Reporting to the Head of Content Development, the librarian will provide in-depth research consultations and advanced information literacy workshops.

This is an unclassified academic staff position. Rank considerations are based on professional performance, research, and service experience. For the job description, qualifications and application instructions, please visit https://employment.ku.edu/academic/3008BR. Review of applications begins on May 1, 2015. For further information, contact Judith Emde: jemde@ku.edu
Carolyn Dow – Polley Music Librarian, Lincoln City Libraries

I’ve been keeping busy with performing -- flute, piccolo, oboe, and even English horn, and the very occasional vocal gig.

And thanks to years in MPMLA, my first off-school music library program will be Musical Glasses at the beginning of April. This will be the first of several future musical programs for children and their parents to be held in the music library when school is not in session. There’s a day in early April when everybody is off of school in Lincoln, but not everybody celebrates it as a holiday.

The first program will be a hands-on activity featuring musical glasses. Participants will learn to play musical glasses while exploring some of the scientific principles behind making music with the glasses. How to "tune" the glasses, if the same amount of water in different sized glasses makes the same or different pitches, playing intervals or chords with multiple players. Some of the things MPMLA people have played around with at various dinner tables. The activity will be at tables in the music library -- with lots of plastic table cloths and plenty of towels to mop up spills. (Addendum: We had a crowd of 59 people -- all ages. A good time was had by all. And the Saturday morning newspaper had two photos from the event on the front page (but not on the website). Those photos show the glasses being played with friction. There is a YouTube video of glasses being struck with a mallet.)

Lincoln City Libraries is in the middle of a three month conversion to our new ILS (from Koha to SirsiDynix Symphony), going live April 30. Our new library website should also be unveiled about the same time.

Janet Bradford – Brigham Young University

Our cataloging projects are moving along. 😊

Here is a status report since last fall:

Approximately 500 LPs cataloged – we only have 4000 to go!

78 rpm recordings: cataloged 10,000 more (19,800 total)

Historic Sheet Music Project: cataloged 3300 more (5022 total)
Doug’s media project is nearing completion! Congratulations to him and his fine students.

On a personal note, Janet has been very busy with the Mormon Tabernacle choir. She got to sing with the Muppets at the Christmas concert. Her husband Daron was featured as the “clarinetist in your neighborhood”—he got to sing with Elmo and Santino Fantana! Here we are with the famed Rick Elliott in the background.

As you all know ACDA was the very same time as MLA in Denver. The choir gave two different concerts. The one in the tabernacle featured the choir, Orchestra at Temple Square and Bells at Temple Square, titled “With Cheerful Voice: An Evening of Sacred Song.” The second one was in our conference center and featured Sylvia McNair and Santino Fontana (yes, we invited him back for his third performance with us). The concluding number was a 1,700-voice choir singing, “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.” It was a wonderful experience.

Janet’s daughter, Emily, has been on her LDS mission for seven months, and is in Powell, Ohio.

Stephen Luttmann - University of Northern Colorado

My staff and I are looking forward to a busy, stressful summer as our work room will be emptied, gutted, and remodeled . . . hopefully with plenty of time to spare for fall semester preparations (famous last words?). But we are all looking forward to ditching the huge central work table that eats up so much space, as well as some hanging shelving units that we don’t really like bumping our heads against. I personally was horrified to hear that Facilities wants me to empty and vacate my office for the duration as well, so that they can put in new carpeting . . . which I don’t need. We could really use some new carpeting in the public areas, but nooOOOOOooooo . . . fortunately I have a new associate dean to report to, and he’s pretty attentive to our needs and priorities, so I might be able to get him to talk Facilities out of this, and maybe spend the money on some more cabinets instead.
And somehow I’ll manage to squeeze in a couple of weeks’ worth of family visit, a couple of weeks’ worth of Thailand, and service on a couple of search committees between now and the end of August too. My summer calendar is likely to resemble a minefield when it’s all over. Wheeee!

Katy Levings – Oklahoma State Panhandle University

I’m working on getting McKee Library’s sheet music collection up and running for next year’s solo and ensemble competitions, recitals, and juries. Our library is making the collection (http://libguides.opsu.edu-sheetmusic) available to all band directors and music teachers in our area – SW Kansas, SE Colorado, NE New Mexico, the Texas & Oklahoma panhandles, and Ellis & Harper Counties in Oklahoma. Right now, the collection focus will be on wind instrument pieces, but I hope to include vocal and piano music in the near future. I have approximately 1,000 pieces catalogued now and around 5,000 more to go.

Anita Breckbill - University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Music Library recently received some café-like furniture and painted several library walls a deep blue to contrast with the university’s basic beige. Patrons are enjoying the new furniture and the Music Library has become a big social gathering place. We would like to think our popularity is because of our great collections, fascinating bibliographic instruction, and modern furniture choices, but we also know that there are few other gathering places in the building. While basking in our new surroundings, the Music Library staff had a chance to meet with the University Libraries’ User Experience team. We are continuing to look at issues such as signage, the Music Library’s web page, and highlighting Music Library collections on the School of Music’s big-screen televisions.

After a call from the Libraries’ public relations office for selfies, the library staff responded with this. We label it “Horror in the Libraries.”

Matthew Stock – University of Oklahoma

The Fine Arts Library at OU is currently displaying memorabilia from the School of Dance’s Ballets Russes Archives. You can see a few images on our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153113021528913.1073741836.214743598912&type=1 (Note from editor: I have added one pictorial example from each of the online sources Matt links to.)

A few images have been posted at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/111589357@N08/sets/72157649589351397/. The entire work will be scanned and available online in the near future.

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**Christopher Mehrens – Arizona State University**

Hello everyone. I am sorry to report that I will have to miss the meeting in May, but I am planning to attend the national meeting in Cincinnati next March.

Beginning the in the fall of 2014, I began dividing my time between Arizona and Washington State to be with my mother during her final illness. We were able to bring her home and, in December, I was with her when she drew her last breath. I was blessed during this period because of all the wonderful people who were there for my mother and me, especially her hospice team. They truly made her final days comfortable and peaceful. I would especially like to send special thanks to my MPMLA friends and colleagues for their kind thoughts and support during this difficult time. I now look forward to devoting my energies more fully to the chapter and to the chapter board.

At the time of the Norman meeting, I was unable to attend because I was involved with a search for a new University Librarian. I am pleased to report that our efforts were successful and Dr. James O’Donnell took over the helm of our organization in early February. (https://asunews.asu.edu/20141027-university-librarian-appointment). Jim is an extremely dynamic individual and, since his arrival, many wonderful things have been happening around here. As part of the management team, I have been regularly meeting with him and my fellow administrators, and we have been involved with the exciting process of charting the future of our organization. The reason that I will not be in Edmonton is that we have an all-day, all-library retreat scheduled at that time. During the retreat, Jim will share his vision for the future of the ASU Libraries and it is important that I be there as part of the management team.
Beyond all the changes that have been taking place around here, I was also involved with a ten-year accreditation renewal visit conducted by the NASM. According to a recent email from the Provost, all went well and our visitors were truly impressed with everything that we doing here at the ASU School of Music.

Again, my thanks and well wishes to everyone, and I look forward to seeing you next March.

**Myrna Layton – Brigham Young University**

In the summer of 2013, I decided I wanted to run some kind of library program, copying the excellent work that public libraries do of bringing people into the library through programming. Something musical that I enjoy, and that all people are capable of doing to some degree or another, is singing. So I decided to launch a singing program—but what kind should it be? It seemed that hymn singing would be the easiest, because hymns are compact, usually fitting on one page; they are repetitive, so there is not a steep learning curve before a group can produce a decent sound. And so I launched “Hymn Sing.” Now we are finishing up our second academic year running this program, and I think it has been successful. Attendance has varied from a low of seven people (too few) to a high of 24, but we usually have somewhere between 13 and 16 attendees. We sing hymns from any time period and any denomination. There is usually a theme chosen; sometimes we have guest presenters. A fun one recently was our Hawaiian themed hymn sing, at which our presenter, Music Library employee Ikaika Keliiliki, even accompanied some of the hymns on the ukulele. Janet Bradford was our presenter in March for women's history month. I have badgered her into reprising this program at MPMLA in Edmonton so you can all get a taste of our “Hymn Sing” library program!

One of Janet’s cataloguing students, Gabe, made a documentary about one of our earliest “Hymn Sing” programs, which can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVydPKtfmA4&app=desktop Perhaps one of you might like to try a similar program!

I hope that you enjoy this issue of “Conventional Title”— It is my pleasure to serve you and our organization as the editor. Thank you to everyone who submitted news and photos! Without your contribution, this would not be much of a newsletter.

I am also happy to serve as the manager of the listserv. 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 will see that all the members of the organization receive it!
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 24, 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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