"Hello," from your Mountain-Plains Chapter, Music Library Association. Just five months have passed since we gathered in Albuquerque for our annual conference. Do read Annette Voth's enclosed account of our activities to reminisce a bit or to inform yourself of the chapter's carryings on if you could not attend. It was one of those meetings that had everything: the best company possible, a beautiful setting, lovely accommodations, great food, a varied and informative program, a world premier, a mountain top experience (we rode the tram up the Sandia Mountains), and even a spiritual awakening (we knew that was bound to happen eventually) at the Spanish mission ruins of Quarai. The staff of the University of New Mexico Fine Arts Library prepared all local arrangements. So, on behalf of the entire chapter I send an enthusiastic thank you to the entire crew: Charlemaud Curtis, Monique Durham, Pat Fairchild, Aida Gerdes, Dave Herzell, Don Johnson, Barbara Lukes, Gene Ness, Nancy Pistorius, Mike Swick, Adrian Treviño, Randy Wallace, and Jim Wright. Thank yous are also due to all program participants and the program committee, chaired by Shelley McGehee, who was assisted by Annette Voth, Jim Wright and myself.

As you read the enclosed business meeting minutes please disregard all mention of Sante Fe. Since May, we have ruled out Sante Fe, a return visit to Albuquerque, Wichita, and some bed and breakfast establishment in Colorado Springs. At one point, Jim Wright and I considered using a compass to determine an exact midpoint and renting tents. But, fortunately, the Arizona State University music librarians hospitably offered refuge. So, prepare yourselves for a lovely conference in sunny Tempe, Arizona May 15-16, 1991.

Now please brace yourselves—I am asking for help. Do please consider presenting a paper for the 1992 annual conference in Tempe. The person to contact is Annette Voth (602) 965-4267. Do please think about assisting your chapter by serving on the 1992 chapter nominating committee. The person to contact is Shelley McGehee (602) 965-4267. Do please tell me what you all think regarding the weekend in May just prior to Memorial weekend. I am a little concerned that we are limiting our field of prospective conference sites, as some universities do traditionally have commencement on this weekend. I wonder if we might occasionally need to allow for some flexibility of date if site choice demands. Do please talk with your colleagues and library administration about hosting the chapter's annual May conference in either 1993 or 1994. Then, do please write an invitation to that effect, stating the best dates and a few probable conference ideas, to me prior to our 1992 conference. The place to contact me is 1754 N. Market, Wichita, KS 67214. If you have questions, you may call me at work at (316) 262-0611 ext. 258. On the lighter side...do you want to compose some music for a future annual conference? The commissions are miniscule but the performers show great flair. Please, do not be bashful! See you in Tempe.

Carol Neighbor
Mountain-Plains Chapter Chair

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**Conventional Title** is published semiannually by the Mountain-Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association.

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Fax number: 1-801-378-3221

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

New members:

Maria Baldwin
7860 E. Gemini Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-1105

Jenny L. Williams
2021 E. Oxford
Tempe, AZ 85283

Address update:

Michele G. Wolff
238 Lochinvar
Wichita, KS 67208

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**Chapter Officers—1990-1991**

Chair: Carol Neighbor (Wichita Public Library, 223 S. Main St., Wichita, KS 67202) (316) 262-0611 x258
Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Shelley McGehee (Arizona St. Univ., Music Library, Tempe, AZ 85287) (602) 965-4267
Secretary/Treasurer: Annette Voth (Arizona St. Univ., Music Library, Tempe, AZ 85287) (602) 965-4267
Member-at-Large: Janet Bischoff (Brigham Young Univ., 6380 HBL, Provo, UT 84602) (801) 378-7653
Chapter Archivist: Laurie Eagleston (Univ. of Arizona, Main Library, Tucson, AZ 85721) (602) 621-6452
Past Chair: Carolyn Dow (Polley Music Library, 136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508) (402) 471-8527

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**Call for Papers**

Annual meeting of the Mountain-Plains Chapter, Music Library Association, May 15-16, 1992, Tempe, Arizona. Please contact a member of the Program Committee with your paper idea/abstract (Annette Voth, chair, iacxv@asuacad or (602) 965-4267; Susan Hitchens, hitchens@ukanzm or (913) 864-3496; or Gary Mayhood, gmayhood@nmsuvm1 or (505) 646-1723. Members of the Local Arrangements Committee are: Arlys McDonald, chair (iacalm@asuacad or (602) 965-4270); David Reynolds, and Jenny Williams.

---

**Volunteers Needed!**

The Chapter’s Nominating Committee, chaired by Shelley McGehee, is in need of two persons to help with this “delightful task.” If you’re willing, contact Shelley at iacssm@asuacad or (602) 965-4267. You’ll enjoy serving with Shelley.

---

Did you Forget?

Our intrepid secretary/treasurer reminds us that more than half of our chapter is “in the red” on our dues for this year. Please rush your $5.00, payable to Mountain-Plains Chapter, MLA, to Annette Voth, Music Library, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287. If you need to know your dues status, you may E-mail Annette at iacxv@asuacad or telephone (602) 965-4267.

Many thanks!

---

From the editors: A big THANKS to all of you who contributed to this newsletter! Your responses shorten the distances between our chapter members. Thank you for sharing.
Mountain-Plains Chapter—Music Library Association 14th Annual Conference Report

The Mountain-Plains Chapter of the Music Library Association met in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 17 and 18, 1991 for its annual meeting at the beautifully restored La Posada de Albuquerque. The evening before official proceedings began, members of the Chapter had dinner at Rancho de Corrales, a restaurant located in a territorial building and offering incendiary New Mexican fare. Members were cooled and soothed afterwards at a reception in the elegant new home of Jim and Carla Wright in Corrales, with a view of the New Mexican sky which was breathtaking.

The following morning the meeting began with a warm, indeed hilarious, welcome extended by University of New Mexico Library Dean Robert Mignault. The first speaker of the morning, Myron Patterson (University of Utah), relaxed the group with some mild exercises, and went on to discuss the keyboard toccatas and “Fiori Musicali” of Frescobaldi, accompanied by printed and recorded musical examples.

Leah Cole (University of Colorado, Boulder) presented a paper on the medieval European harp. She first gave a physical description of the instrument and compared it with the ancient harp, then went on to discuss the harp’s function in society, harp literature, and the tradition of the European bards. She discussed various methods of playing and notation, and played several selections from the period on a 26 string Irish/Celtic folk instrument.

Shelley McGehee (Arizona State University) read a paper entitled “Thirty Years of Album Covers: Women as Sexual Stereotypes.” Because album covers both promote and advertise, she based her research on literature dealing with advertising. She commented on the lack of articles examining how the recording music industry has used women to market its product. Shelley concluded with slides of album covers which illustrated the major points of her paper.

Charles King (University of Arizona) spoke on the use of government documents in copyright searching for music, with an overview of the problems most frequently encountered. He also reviewed non-document sources available for searching copyright dates and other information. Charles was joined by Clark McLean, documents librarian at UNM, who reviewed the major documents sources.

After the lunch break, David Reynolds (Arizona State University) presented a paper entitled “A Look at OCLC Cataloging Through the PRISM.” The paper began with a brief history of the development of the new OCLC PRISM system and how well it has met users’ expectations. This was followed by an explanation of the system and how these parts relate to each other. Finally, the main section of the talk consisted of a description of searching and cataloging features found in PRISM and how these differ from the original OCLC system.

Annette Voht (Arizona State University) spoke on the subject of student assistants and the appropriate level of their involvement in reference service in a specialized branch library. She recounted experiences at ASU, both failures and successes, and then called for general discussion of the issue. Several suggestions were forthcoming, with a variety of approaches.

The next session was a panel discussion, “Media: Cataloging, Processing, Storing, Securing, etc.” The first speaker was Sue Weiland (Wichita State University) who addressed the problem of the large number of duplicate records for compact discs in OCLC, resulting primarily from tape loads where duplicates go undetected by OCLC’s algorithm. The worst problems occur in the matching of place of publication and date. Laurie Eagleson (University of Arizona) spoke on the problems of cataloging music videos, particularly opera videos. There are also serious problems with duplicates in this area. She pointed out various problems of entry and description which differ from traditional practices in music cataloging. Carol Neelbor (Wichita Public Library) examined the problem of loss of various media formats, particularly CD’s, and the different types of security systems which might help to prevent loss.

MaryAnn Stoddard (Northern Arizona University) spoke on the problems of housing, storage and security of the various media formats. She reviewed the availability of adequate shelving for the different sizes of formats, labeling and packaging practices, and circulation policies.

Mark Rustman (Topeka Public Library) spoke on the definition of lyric opera. Through a discussion of various conflicting sources, and recorded examples from French lyric operas, he examined the questionable aspects of lyric opera as a viable historical genre.

The evening festivities began with a spectacular tram ride up the Sandia Mountains high above Albuquerque. This was followed by dinner at the base of the mountains at the Firehouse Restaurant. All then returned to La Posada for the long-awaited premier of Karl Kroeger’s commissioned work Prosi!. Unfortunately, the composer could not be present.

The Saturday session got off to a rousing start with a pep-talk, skit and slide show by co-editors Janet Bischoff and Irene Halliday (Brigham Young University) on behalf of the chapter newsletter Conventional Title.

Shelly Wolff (Wichita State University) read a paper on “The Harvard Assessment Seminars and their Possible Implications for the (continued on next page)
14th Annual Conference Report (continued from previous page)

Academic Library," which outlined findings of the Harvard assessments. She stated that assessment is an important development in higher education, and that academic libraries will be affected. She advocates the use of the Harvard results as a tool to encourage innovation in our more specialized and generally smaller music libraries.

Marc Faw (University of Oklahoma) continued his entertaining series, presented over several years of Mountain-Plains meetings, on various aspects of Puccini and Verdi operas. This year Marc discussed dramatic and musical conventions used by Verdi.

The group then adjourned for a tour of the Fine Arts Library, University of New Mexico. From there we travelled some 70 miles outside Albuquerque to the Spanish mission ruins of Quarai. One of the rangers presented a program on the music of the mission period. After a picnic lunch, the annual business meeting was conducted in the face of gale force winds and blowing dust.

Business meeting, 18 May 1991

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Chair Carol Neighbor, who laboriously to be heard above the gale force winds of the New Mexico desert at Quarai.

Carolyn Dow moved, seconded by Marc Faw, that the minutes of the 1990 business meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Neighbor announced that Chair Elect Shelley McGehee will act as chair of the chapter nominating committee, and called for volunteers both to serve on that committee and run for office.

Several points were discussed concerning the annual meeting for next year: 1) Increase the meeting to two full days to allow for some free time—agreed; 2) Start the second day at 9:00 a.m. rather than 8:00 a.m.—agreed; 3) Retain Friday/Saturday as the meeting days—agreed; 4) Hold the meeting sessions in the conference hotel—agreed; 5) Continue the practice of pre-registration with the local arrangements committee—agreed; 6) Consider meeting in the fall rather than spring—rejected; 7) Continue meeting the week-end before the Memorial Day weekend—agreed, except by Charles King and Jim Wright.

The location of the meeting was discussed, with Wichita and Tempe suggested as possibilities. Someone suggested Santa Fe, Jim Wright said he was perfectly willing to do it, and the suggestion became an enthusiastic definite. [Editor's note: Site of the 1992 meeting will be Tempe. See "From the Chapter Chair," p. 1]

Carol Neighbor announced that MLA chapters can get financial support from the national organization for projects such as chapter directories, etc. A feasibility task force was appointed to look into the matter: Charles King will serve as chair, with Ed Cahall and Susan Hitchens.

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig received a commission of $1.41 to compose a 4-part villancico to serve as the chapter song.

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Voth

Report from ALA—Annual Convention, June 29-July 4, 1991

With its 110th annual conference, the American Library Association returned to Atlanta for the first time since the 19th century. For a music librarian, it was a pleasant surprise to discover in the 312-page program two sessions dealing specifically with music and libraries.

The Arts Section of ACRL presented Becoming Literate with Our Heritage: The WPA and the Arts. Bill Coscarelli, a member of MLA and Arts Section Chair, moderated the session, presenting a history and overview of the WPA, a five billion dollar work relief program of the Depression which created jobs in many areas, of which the arts were only a small part.

Dena Epstein, past president of MLA, spoke on the Federal Music Project. Before it began, only eleven symphony orchestras were active in the U.S. Within three years, over 35 orchestras had come into existence in addition to many smaller ensembles. Over 50,000,000 people heard WPA concerts, for many people the first live concerts they attended. The Project provided employment for performing musicians, composers, teachers, librarians, music copyists, tuners, etc.

Dena also discussed music copying projects which resulted in thousands of scores and parts available for free use by ensembles throughout the U.S.

After 1939, the Project continued under auspices of the individual states, and records are non-existant. Dena urged librarians to search for local records of Project performances, a potentially valuable resource for research in contemporary American music.

Sukey Sommer was the moderator for a very useful program on the preservation of music collections entitled Knowing the Score. She discussed preservation problems that are unique to music, specifically sound recordings and scores, and what music librarians are doing about them. An important point she emphasized is the fact that music scores do not generally become obsolete and require a long shelf life.

(continued on page 8)
**Chapter Happenings**

**Brigham Young University**
Irene Halliday, reporter

**Staff Activities**

New to the Harold B. Lee Library at BYU is Rick Anderson, music paraprofessional in the Acquisitions Dept. Rick supervises music pre-order and bibliographic searching and inputting. Recently awarded a B.S. in Family Science, Rick is pursuing his MLS at BYU, preparing himself for future employment as a Sound Recordings Archivist and/or Subject Specialist.

A native of Boston, Rick’s musical exposure, both formal and informal, is extensive. A trained string bass player, he has played in high school, college and university orchestras, jazz and dance bands, and even found time for a little bluegrass. Rick is currently a founding member of the local group, “Swim Herschel Swim,” which regularly plays dance concerts. In 1990, he married Laura Wolz, a junior high Spanish/English teacher. Rick’s quick wit and cheerful personality liven up technical services at BYU.

**Major New Acquisitions**

The Harold B. Lee Library has recently acquired two important collections: The Jack Nebergall Harp Collection, and the Grétry Complete Operas. The Nebergall Collection, a gift from San Francisco harpist Jack Nebergall, contains over 700 scores, both printed and manuscript, which are being added to the Library’s Pratt Harp Collection. The Grétry operas are contained in a 49 volume set purchased for BYU by music librarian David Day from the Royal Library in Brussels, Belgium. Dated in the early 1900’s, this particular edition was published by the Belgian government from a mid-nineteenth century edition by Breitkopf & Härtel.

**MLA Mountain-Plains Chapter**


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**TOTAL ASSETS**

| $1598.54 |

Annette Voth, Secretary/Treasurer

(continued on next page)
Happenings (continued from previous page)

Library Projects
The project of reclassifying the printed music and music book collection to Dewey 20 is almost done. It was planned as a five year project, but should be completed in 2 years and 3 months. (The records are being left in Dewey 19, but the compact discs are all in Dewey 20.)

In August, 1991, the Polley staff answered more than 2000 reference questions, a new record for us...and I thought August was supposed to be a slow month....

New Mexico State University
Gary W. Mayhood, reporter

Staff Activities
The only personal activity I can report to you is that I finished all of the work necessary for my master’s degree. I was awarded a Master of Music Degree from Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, July 1991. My work was in music history.

P.S. What happened to my thesis is an absolutely horrendous tale of woe with fried computer disks, et al. The story is too long and gory to go into any details, but I will be more than happy to relay the “tail” when I see you.

Library Projects
We have been in a major reclass project of the music and art collection in anticipation of the move of our arts and humanities collections to a new building this coming July. So far all of our opera scores have been reclassified and put online, and the M3's are done. Now [we're] working on M2's and M1's. [We] will have probably a third of it done by the time of the move.

University of Colorado
Leah Cole Riddick, reporter

Staff Activities
Leah Cole got married on June 1, 1991 to Frank Riddick — some of you met him at the Albuquerque meeting. So my new name is Leah Riddick. We went to Scotland for 10 days and had a marvelous time. We went to the Hunterian Library in Glasgow, Scotland, and actually made an appointment with the special collections librarian to see the Hunterian (or York) Psalter. They were kind enough to bring out the beautiful Psalter (from 1170 A. D.) and Frank and I were able to look at it for quite some time (using white gloves, of course!). It was quite a thrill for the medieval scholar that lurks within me. The Psalter is kept in a humidity and temperature controlled box and then kept in a locked vault. Fascinating.

University of Kansas
Thomas Gorton Music Library

Susan Hitchens, reporter

Staff Activities
2. Barbara Gaedert joined the Music Cataloging unit as a half-time cataloger. Barb has been cataloging primarily Sci/Tech materials for the past several years, but is experienced in handling music items, and is the author of MLA Technical Report no. 4: *The Cataloging and Classification of Sound Recordings*.
3. Jim Smith, Library Assistant II in the Music Library, was married in May.

Library Projects
In 1990 and 1991, the Kansas Regents sent to the State Legislature a building request for an extension to Murphy Hall, to accommodate large rehearsal halls, studios and practice rooms and a new music library. The Legislature has not considered this project, although it was a first-priority building project for the University of Kansas, Lawrence campus.

On June 15, 1991, Hoch Auditorium on the University of Kansas campus was struck by lightning and completely destroyed. This building has been used for a large lecture hall and as a concert and rehearsal hall since the 1950's. Its loss was a disaster for the University, and particularly devastating for the Dept. of Music and Dance. Besides losing the only space where large ensembles (including the marching band, combined choirs and orchestras) could rehearse, many concerts had to be relocated, and several large classes were rescheduled into Murphy Hall's two smaller auditoriums.

Perhaps most devastating to the Department is the loss of the first-priority status of the Murphy Hall extension plan. The Chancellor has stated that the restoration of Hoch is now the first building priority for the University.

Although a privately funded performing arts center is currently being built, this will not alleviate the loss of the rehearsal space and lecture halls for the University. The Department of Music and Dance is holding rehearsals of its large ensembles in the former firing range of the Military Science building, with many practice rooms being used for faculty and teaching assistant studios. In addition, the Music Library, with over 4,000 of its holdings currently stored in the Science Library, cannot look for a new facility to solve the overcrowding problems until (most likely) the 21st century.

Misc.
KU has a duplicate compact disc sound recording that we're willing to trade for a recording we lack.
University of Montana

ariett Ranney, reporter

Staff Activities

From Sept. 1, 1991 'til May 1st, 1992, I am the Acting Media Librarian while the regular media librarian is on a sabbatical. I have physically moved across campus to Instructional Media Services, which houses scores, recordings and all other non-book items (videos, films, slides, prints, kits, etc.)

Major New Acquisitions

Our local PBS radio station, KUFM, located on the U. of Mont. campus, recently upgraded its opera collection to CD's, and generously donated 212 vinyl albums to the library. All are in good condition, and many have never been played. In view of our limited materials budget, this is a much appreciated gift.

Library Projects

The U. of Mont. has at long last given the go-ahead for the Mansfield Library to become fully automated, and DYNIX is the system which has been selected. We will continue to use WLN for our bibliographic utility. The preparation for this is requiring many hours of planning.

U. of Mont. expects fall enrollment to be 10,700 students.

Misc.

Just to clarify...My last name is pronounced with a short “a,” Ran-ney (rhymes with fan, man, etc.), not Rain-ey.

Wichita Public Library

Carol Neighbor, reporter

Staff Activities

Carol Neighbor's daughter, Treva, presented her with a fifth grandchild (third grandson) named Ian Christopher Jacobs on September 11, 1991.

Library Projects

The latest really good news concerns the city's recent approval for purchase of the DYNIX System as our new Integrated Library Information System at a projected cost of 1.3 million. We anticipate an operational date of late 1992. The related bad news is that the city will fund 50%; the library will raise the remaining funds within five years. So, money raising is now a primary concern. In 1987, our director, Richard Rademacher, anticipating future funding difficulties, formed the Wichita Public Library Foundation. To help with the DYNIX purchase, the foundation has pledged to raise an annual amount, targeting large private, corporate, and business sources. Our recently rejuvenated Friends of the Library raises monies which go directly to the director. Surely, some of this will go toward the DYNIX purchase. Two current Friends activities include a Friends of the Library Book Store and the TRAILS OF KANSAS luncheon lecture series. The book store, an alternative to our annual fall book sale, sells library overflow and withdrawn books, nonbook items, and materials from private sources. So far, the daily proceeds average around $100 of pure profit since Friends volunteers do the work. The TRAILS OF KANSAS luncheon lecture series expands on the library's year-long program, "Whose Story? Kansas History at the Wichita Public Library." Noted historians trace the foot, wagon and steel trails which traversed Kansas and especially impacted the development of the Wichita area. The community's response to this $85 per person program has exceeded our expectations. If any of you know of additional proven ways of raising library revenue, please let me know. The quality of our future depends on good ideas.

Misc.

Perhaps you have seen the poster which states that, especially in times of economic recession, citizens turn to their public library for information, enrichment and entertainment. At our 12 sites, the Wichita Public Library tries to anticipate and respond to our community's growing needs by maintaining our 72 hour weekly schedule and expanding our services despite budget cuts and staff reductions. Perhaps the statistical reality of public demand on the Art, Music and AV Section of Adult Services in the Central Library during September, 1991, will prove interesting:

Reference transactions completed 6442
Circulation

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<tr>
<td>In-house use—non book</td>
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Statistics show that library-wide circulation and reference activities have increased over 38% during the past 10 years. The Art, Music and AV Section's load has certainly exceeded this percentage as we handle the two media which have the highest collection turnover rate, videos and compact discs.

Wichita State University

Sue Weiland, Shelly Wolff, reporters

Staff Activities

[Sue reports]: On October 1, Sheila Torres-Blank began work here in the Cataloging Department. She is our Media and Projects Cataloger. She does all videos, maps, software, etc. Sometime in late spring, after she gets a handle on the media cataloging (which I allowed to pile up) she will begin retroconverting the scores and sound recordings in the Music Library. Shelly is drooling and salivating and slobbering over the idea that someone will finally get to the retroconversion. We're crossing our fingers that some other emergency will not erupt to keep this from happening. Sheila is originally from Lincoln and, while a student there, worked with Susan Messler at Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln. She got her MLS at the Univ. of Michigan.

(continued on next page)
Happenings (continued from previous page)

[Shelly reports]: I will present a revised version of the paper I did in Albuquerque at the ASLA/MPLA/AEMA joint conference on October 31, in Phoenix. I plan to stay with Arlys and visit the Arizona State library, Shelley, and Annette while there. The paper will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

I have planned workshops on using the OPAC for the music library faculty. Since we still have a card catalog in the music library, though not up-to-date, many faculty still refer only to it. I am trying to reach the computer-inexperienced. So far, I have about 10 faculty signed up.

I have moved. My husband and I have a new house. Sue was among those who helped us move. Without them, we couldn’t have done it!

ALA report (continued from page 4)

Gerald Gibson, Curator of Moving images and sound recordings at the Library of Congress, emphasized the relative newness of audio and video technologies, noting the wide variety of standards and formats for these materials which require totally different treatments for preservation.

Jane Gottlieb, Head of the Music Library at Juilliard, discussed the performance use of materials, and promoted serving the user’s needs while protecting library materials. With a performance collection, deterioration of materials must be accepted and expected. Her library marks many worn scores with the code Ph.D. (“phased deterioration”), consciously returning these materials to the shelf for use.

Susan Hitchens

Coda

—Accompanists please note this “severe admonishment” from a treatise by 18th century composer/violinist Francesco Maria Veracini: “It is up to the composer to arrange for the cymbalist, the organist or violincellist, in making the rough bass accompany a voice that is singing a solo or an instrument playing a solo, be particularly careful (besides the Time and the accords being right) not to cover them in an unsuitable way, by playing loudly and with many keys; indeed we invite him to refrain prudently from showing off the velocity of his hand and of his talent, by frequently adding repercussions of the bass and other like ways of abatement, because the soloist singer or player must be the prominent figure.” Some things never change.

Mountain-Plains Chapter, MLA
Newsletter Editors
6380 HBLL
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602