

MLA NCC Newsletter

Music Library Association, Northern California Chapter
Vol. 1, No. 1 Fall 1985

From the chair

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter since it helps to initiate our reborn newsletter. The Executive Board met at Stanford on August 14th and began working on the program for the year. We have two exciting meetings planned. Our fall meeting will be held at the San Francisco Ballet, on November 15th. Program Committee Chair Lou Wolfe has organized a wonderful program which is detailed in the announcement of the meeting. San Jose State will host our spring meeting in April 1986, when we will have the opportunity to visit the newly dedicated Center for Beethoven Studies and meet Dr. William Meredith, Archivist.

At our spring 1984 meeting, revisions to the constitution were ratified and new officers elected. Officers for this year are: Mimi Tashiro, Stanford, Chair; Lou Wolfe, San Francisco Conservatory, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect; and Denise Kissack, CSU Hayward, Secretary/Treasurer. Ann Basart, UC Berkeley; Past Chair, serves on the Executive Board with the officers. The revised constitution provides for three standing committees. They are the Membership Committee (Jean Lyle, U.O.P., Chair), Program Committee (Lou Wolfe, Chair), and Nominating Committee (Ruth Warren, College of Notre Dame, Chair). The constitution designates the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect as the chair of the Program Committee. Mary Kay Duggan (UC Berkeley) has agreed to be the newsletter editor.

I hope that you will be able to attend our meetings. We will have the unique opportunity to view two "new" facilities--the new home of the San Francisco Ballet, and the

newly founded Center for Beethoven Studies. I would also like to encourage you to actively participate in the work carried out by the Chapter. I know that at least one or two committee chairs would welcome members to their committees and we will need assistance and support from many of you as we plan and sponsor the workshop geared toward public and small academic librarians with responsibilities for music in the spring of 1987.

Here's to an enjoyable and successful year!

Mimi
Tashiro
Chair,
MLA-NCC

FALL MEETING

Nov. 15th
San Francisco Ballet

On the spring meeting

The joint meeting of the Northern and Southern California Chapters of the Music Library Association at the Glendale Public Library on May 17th and 18th, 1985 focussed on "California's Musical Wealth: Sources for the Study of Music in California."

Friday's program included three sessions: "The WPA Music Project," "Emigré Musicians in Southern California," and "Ethnic Music in California." John Emerson of U.C. Berkeley presented one of the papers on the WPA project's activities in San Francisco.

In the evening after a barbeque dinner at the home of Jeannie and Kevin Pool, we viewed Jeannie's documentary video, "The Story of the All-Women's Orchestras in California, 1893-1955."

Saturday began with NCC's business meeting where amendments to the Constitution were passed concerning a new office of Vice Chair, a longer two-year term of office for the Secretary/Treasurer, the creation of an Executive Board, and new standing committees. Further sessions included "The Documentation of California Composers," Documenting Special Aspects of Music in California," and "Future Directions in the Documentation of Music in California." The Southern California Chapter will be publishing the papers presented at the meeting.

Walter Gerboth Award

The Music Library Association is now accepting applications for the first Walter Gerboth Award, this year \$200, in memory of the esteemed professor of music and former music librarian who died in 1984. Eligible are members of the Association who are music librarians in the first five years of their professional career, seeking assistance for a research project in progress. It is desirable but not required that the research be destined for publication.

An application should be accompanied by two letters of support, one for the person and one for the project, and should include a *vita* as well as names of further references who might be consulted. It should describe the project and its significance, and show the total budget, specifying the amount requested from the Association, sources of other funds if any, and the purpose of the funds requested. No funds will be awarded for capital purchases. Applications should be submitted by January 1, 1986, to Gerboth Award, Sibley Music Library, Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs St., Rochester, NY 14604.

News of members

Vincent Duckles, Professor of Music Emeritus and founding Head (1948-1981) of the UC Berkeley Music Library, died on July 1,

1985. Friends and colleagues established the Vincent H Duckles Memorial Fund to support the continued growth of the special collections of rare books on music, early imprint scores, musical manuscripts, and the letters and papers of musicians in the Berkeley Music Library.

Ray Reeder, Hayward State University, and *Barbara Jeskalian*, San Jose State University, received awards for outstanding performance and professional promise.

Ann Basart, UC Berkeley, has received a special commendation from MLA for "imaginative, innovative, informative, precedent-setting work with *Cum notis variorum*."

Brian Newhouse is the new music cataloger at Princeton University Library. Brian received his MLIS from UC Berkeley last year and is working on a dissertation in the area of 20th-century opera.

Michael Colby, a former student member of MLA-NCC, has been appointed music cataloger at the San Francisco Public Library. He will leave Bowling Green State University to begin working in October.

Jerry Persons, Stanford University, has been appointed Head, Stanford University Libraries Systems Office, and will be helping to coordinate computer-related activities in the libraries, most notably the online catalog, Socrates and the planning of the automated circulation system.

Beth Rebman, Stanford University, will continue as Acting Head of the Music Library.

Richard Koprowski, RLIN, is Book Review Editor for *Notes*.

Michael Keller, UC Berkeley, has received an award of \$3,000 from the LAUC Research Committee for "Anthologies of Italian Music and Poetry of the Renaissance," a project involving scholars and librarians in California and Italy in the development of a data base of full-text transcriptions of Italian lyric poetry and associated music from c 1450 to 1650, as well as a bibliographic record of the sources.

Marsha Berman, UCLA, received an award of \$2,373 from the LAUC Research Committee for "Luciano Berio: An Annotated Bio-Bibliography."

Jerry McBride, Schönberg Archives, and *Mary Kay Duggan*, UC Berkeley, have been appointed to the MLA Working Group on Machine Readable Music Notation. The Group, chaired by Carolyn Rabson and under the Bibliographic Control Committee, is charged with study of the feasibility of encoding and electronically transmitting musical information as an aspect of the bibliographic control of music materials.

News of libraries

A *Center for Beethoven Studies* has been established at San Jose State University and an archivist appointed, Dr. William Meredith.

The *Darius Milhaud Collection* of the Mills College Archives was established "in recognition of the profound effect Darius Milhaud has had on the world of music; to honor his memory, and to insure that his works are made available to scholars and performers for generations to come." The College has received a \$50,000 challenge grant toward a needed collection endowment of \$150,000. Milhaud was a member of the Mills College Faculty for thirty-one years and while in residence composed approximately one-fourth of his more than 400 compositions.

New books

Directory of Library School Offerings in Music Librarianship. Music Library Association, 1985. The MLA Education Committee compiled responses to a questionnaire sent to all library schools on the ALA's list. The 32-page publication is available for \$1.50 (check or money order to MLA) from John Shepard, Music Division/PARC, 111 Amsterdam Ave., New York, N.Y. 10023.

Catalogue général de l'édition musicale en France: livres, méthodes et partitions de musique sérieuse en vente = General catalog of music publishing in France. Bernard Pierreuse. Paris: Editions Musicales Transatlantiques, 1984. 476 pp. ISBN 2-903933-04-9, French francs 500.00. (Ed. Musicales Transatlantiques, 50, rue Joseph-de-Maistre, F-75018 Paris)

--Catalog of about 40,000 items from 39 French publishers, compiled at the end of

1982.

Pompi, the Popular Music Periodicals Index. No. 1, July 1985, compiled by Chris Clark and Andy Linehan. British Institute of Recorded Sound, 29 Exhibition Rd., London SW2, England.

Rare Book & Manuscript Collections in the Libraries of the San Francisco Bay Area. Compiled & edited by Mary H. Silloway. October, 1985. Available from Bernard M. Rosenthal, 251 Post, San Francisco. A guide to 19 Bay Area libraries, including the Music Library, UC Berkeley, and The De Bellis Collection, SF State University.

Jobs

Head Librarian and Bibliographer of the Music Library, Stanford University. DESCRIPTION: Plan, develop, maintain, and improve the services and collections in support of the research and teaching programs of the Music Department. The Head Librarian maintains close contact with faculty to ascertain research and instructional programs, develops and manages music collections to meet academic program needs, manages the facility and staff of the Music Library and the Archive of Recorded Sound and provides instruction in music bibliography. QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge of and experience in academic libraries, the fields and literature of music and musicology, and the distribution of music materials in Europe and North America. Supervisory experience required. Reading knowledge of German, Latin or French highly desirable. An MLS or the equivalent in theory and practice, and a degree in musicology or music are highly desirable. Apply before November 15, 1985. Send complete cover letter and résumé to: Carolyn J. Henderson, Library Personnel Officer, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford CA 94305.

Notes for a New Article on the Origins of the Northern California Chapter
Music Library Association



Vincent Duckles was among those in attendance at the MLA National Meeting, San Francisco, January, 1950. Please help identify the others in the photograph. *Jessica Fredricks Scrapbook, San Francisco Public Library.*

A week before the seventh anniversary of its initial meeting, the Music Library Association convened jointly with the American Library Association at the Hotel Muehlebach in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 14-16, 1938. On the Music Library Association's program for the first of the two days appeared a talk by Jessica Fredricks (Music Librarian, San Francisco Public Library, 1917-1950) and, on the second day, a discussion of the formation of regional chapters. A related item on the June 14th agenda came from Dorothy Lawton, speaking for the Committee on Employment Information, in the form of a

recommendation that the Committee "be expanded to include a Middle Western and Far Western member."

These juxtapositions provide a key to the formation of the Northern California Chapter, though the establishing of an exact date poses a few problems. In her landmark article written for the fiftieth anniversary of MLA, Carol June Bradley refers to "the San Francisco Chapter that had been organized by Jessica Fredricks in 1938."¹

¹ Carol June Bradley, "The Music Library Association: The Founding Generation and Its Work," *Notes*, 37 (June 1981), 807.

Jessica, as joint author of the 1949 article, "Story of a Chapter," writes, "It was in 1946 that NCC was created; before that date all of California formed one Chapter. Growth of this California Chapter indicated, that the geographical distribution of the state's membership was entirely too unwieldy to permit effective work as a group or the holding of the frequent meetings necessary to continuous effort. Gladys Caldwell,² at that time Chairman of the California Chapter, therefore asked Jessica Fredricks to take over the chairmanship of the new chapter, and she in turn asked Mary Kathleen Moore, music librarian of NBC, San Francisco, to assume the duties of secretary."³

Can a sequence of events leading to and determining the characteristics of the Northern California Chapter be ascertained? A suitable starting point would be the assignment of Jessica Fredricks as head of the music collection of the San Francisco Public Library in 1917, a collection whose foundations may be traced to the initiative of Emilia Mustó Tojetti, a member of the California Club, as early as 1902.⁴ From this base Jessica developed not only the major music library in the San Francisco Bay Area,⁵ but firm and cordial relationships with individual amateur and professional musicians, writers on music, and music lovers, and with organizations of performers and teachers, notably with an "umbrella" organization, the California Federation of Music Clubs. Holding a number of library-related offices, Jessica implemented the Federation's interest in

music collections. She served also as Editor for the Special Libraries Association. It was the California Federation of Music Clubs that published Jessica's *California Composers: Biographical Notes* (San Francisco; 1934).

By the later 1930's Jessica was devoting more and more time to the Music Library Association. In 1937 Carleton Sprague Smith, President of MLA, held an informal session at the San Francisco Public Library, and, as earlier noted, Jessica's paper "A Typical Circulating Music Library," was presented in Kansas City in 1938.

With the sources immediately available to the author, it would be hazardous to guess at the nature of specific MLA events in Northern California between 1938 and 1946. Evidence of activity on the part of the California Chapter, however, is to be found in *MLA Notes: Gladys E. Chamberlain*, reporting on "Recent Activities of the Music Library Association" in *Notes* ([First Series] No. 8, August 1940) credits California with eight members out of a total membership in the United States and Canada of 175. *Notes* ([Second Series] I:1, December 1943, p. 27) informs its readers that Jessica Fredricks is a member of the Periodicals Committee. In its report on the special fall meeting of MLA in Washington, D.C.; *Notes* ([Second Series] I:2, March 1944, p. 41) advised that "before calling on the Regional Chairmen for reports, Mr. [Edward] Waters [President] made a special plea for increased regional and local activity."

That President Waters' plea did not go unheeded is attested to (*Notes*, I:3, p. 53) by an account of a meeting on 13 February 1944 of members of the Music Library Association in the Los Angeles Area; another Los Angeles Area meeting took place on 20 October of the same year (*Notes*, II:1, pp. 12-13). On at least two later occasions *Notes* conveyed appeals for activity reports from local and regional chapters (I:4, p. 62; III:4, p. 390).

The first chairperson of the Northern California Chapter was, and could have been none other than, Jessica Fredricks, who served in this capacity from 1946 to 1948. Her successor was the co-author of "Story

² Gladys E. Caldwell headed the music collections of the Los Angeles Public Library.

³ Jessica Fredricks and Edward Colby, "Story of a Chapter," *Bulletin for Northern California Music Libraries*, 2:6 (August 1949), 10.

⁴ Clippings, 1908-1951, Music Department, San Francisco Public Library. Microfilm (positive) copy of a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, correspondence, acquisition lists, programs and photographs. The scrapbook includes items dated earlier than 1908 and later than 1951.

⁵ The music collections of the San Francisco Public Library remain preeminent among public libraries in the San Francisco Bay Area; the Music Library of the University of California, Berkeley, is outstanding among academic libraries in the United States.

of a Chapter" and author of the present article, holding the office of Chairperson from 1948 to 1950.

Concerning the prehistory and early history of the Northern California Chapter, one may hope that more than one "unanswered question" will be granted a resolution, difficult as that may be to formulate. There is no ambiguity, however, about the vitality of the Chapter once organization had been effected. In 1947 members of the Chapter participated in the national MLA meeting, together with the American Library Association in San Francisco, and held a noteworthy Chapter meeting in Santa Cruz, California.⁶ The Chapter met with the Music Teachers National Association in San Francisco in 1949.

These activities culminated in January 1950 with the National Meeting of MLA in San Francisco. The Chapter had "come of age," thanks in large part to monthly meetings and to the publication of a *Bulletin for Northern California Music Libraries*.

In 1986 the Chapter will be able to celebrate forty years of cooperative discussion and project-related endeavor, and in 1988 fifty years since the idea of a Western chapter was officially set forth. This forthcoming span of years should provide a timely opportunity for further research not only into the beginnings of the Northern California Chapter, but toward a history of its accomplishments over a period of four decades.

Ed Colby

CALENDAR

MLA Pre-Conference Feb. 10, 1986 World Music/Ethnomusicology in the Music Library

MLA Annual Meeting Feb. 11-15, 1986 Milwaukee, Wisc.

Sonneck Society Annual Meeting April 17-20, 1986 University of Colorado, Boulder Music and music activity in the

Great Plains, Southwest, and West

MLA Annual Conference

Plans are under way for the 1986 MLA annual conference, slated for 11-15 February in Milwaukee. For Californians it may be the one chance in the year to see snow!

A preconference workshop on ethnomusicology materials--defined as non-western art music--is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, February 11, and all day Wednesday, February 12. The workshop includes an all-star cast, as we have come to expect. It will provide an overview of the basic concepts of the discipline, address special problems in acquiring materials, discuss bibliographic access, and offer strategies for doing reference work.

The main program will officially open Wednesday evening, with the exhibitors' reception. Three days of compact programming will follow. Interspersed throughout the sessions will be a number of varied and interesting concerts. Topics for the sessions will range from online reference service to advances in online cataloging capabilities, with sessions devoted to the rich musical heritage of the area.

Ruth Tucker
UC Berkeley

The *MLA/NCC Newsletter* contains news reported by members. Would you like to be the liaison from your location? Please volunteer information, and/or services to the editor, Mary Kay Duggan, School of Library and Information Studies, University of California, Berkeley CA, 94720 (work phone: [415] 642-5764; messages: 642-1464).

⁶ Both meetings were held in conjunction with the California Library Association.