

# MLA NCC Newsletter

## Music Library Association

### Northern California Chapter

Vol. 7, no. 1 (Fall 1992)

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#### MLA/NCC Fall Meeting

The next meeting of the MLA/NCC will be held at UC Berkeley on Friday, October 30 (please see attached registration information). The highlight of the meeting will be a tour of the Pacific Film Archive and a short program of films from the PFA's collection. Nancy Goldman, head of the PFA library and film studies center, will introduce us to the activities of PFA and lead our tour. An hour-long program of films from the archives will include a historical film of Market St. in San Francisco before the 1906 earthquake; a preserved segment of a 1919 Italian filmed version of *La Tosca*; a selection from the 1961 series of master classes with Pablo Casals; an example of American avant garde film making; and *For the First Time*, a doc-

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umentary on villagers in Cuba and their first exposure to the cinema.

The Pacific Film Archive is located in the University Art Museum at 2625 Durant Ave. (between Bowditch and College). The PFA visit will be held from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; please plan to assemble at the George Gund Theater inside the Art Museum around 1:15 p.m. Due to costs involved in renting the theater and space limitations, we are asking those attending the PFA portion of the meeting to send in the advance registration form along with \$4. We hope to see many of you there for this exciting program!

The MLA national local arrangements committee meeting will be held that morning from 9:30-noon at the UC Berkeley Music Building (Morrison Hall) Faculty Lounge (on the 1st floor). After lunch and the PFA visit, we will return to the Music Building (Room 117) for our business meeting. A map and parking information are attached.

After the meeting, we invite you to attend a dinner in honor of our retirees Mary Ashe (SF Public Library),

Serena De Bellis (SF State University) and, hopefully, Richard Colvig (Oakland Public Library). You may recall that the dinner was suddenly and unfortunately cancelled after our Oakland meeting last May due to safety and public transportation concerns after the LA riots. We hope to make it up to Mary, Serena, and Richard by toasting them at The Dining Room in the Shattuck Hotel in Berkeley that evening.

#### **More Tributes to Retiring Members**

With the promised articles on retiring members Serena De Bellis and Mary Ashe, this issue continues what seems to be turning into a series of tributes to recently retired members. (A tribute to Richard Colvig appeared in the previous issue.) At this point it is quite likely that the next issue will feature more of the same.

#### **A Tribute to Serena de Bellis**

After joining in the 25th anniversary celebrations of the De Bellis Collection at San Francisco State University, Serena de Bellis retired from her position as the founding curator and librarian. Her career as a music librarian began in 1952, when she served as assistant and then music librarian at the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, Massachusetts. She moved west in 1958 to become the music librarian for the Portland and Multnomah County

Library. When Frank V. de Bellis donated his remarkable collection of Italian books and manuscripts to San Francisco State, Serena became the curator and librarian. Her pamphlet on the De Bellis library and museum published in 1964 reveals a collection rich with music.

From 1968 to 1986, Serena was the producer (and sometimes writer and interviewer) of the radio program "Music of the Italian Masters," heard on KPFA and then KQED-FM. Programs featured recordings from the collection with commentary and included specially-recorded concerts with the Baroque Philharmonia Orchestra and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. Serena also organized many exciting lectures and concerts at SF State with well-known local and nationally-known artists and scholars. In 1974, she commissioned the composer Luciano Berio to write a composition for solo violin, which resulted in Sequenza VIII.

Serena's collection-related travels took her not only to Italy but all over the world: to Moscow and Leningrad to study Italian architects and builders; to Turkey, Egypt, and Greece to research remains of Greek and Roman civilizations; and to Sweden, to research composer Francesco Uttini. During her 1987 sabbatical in Milan and Rome, where she was visiting scholar at the American Academy, she studied new music in Italy after the Berio generation.

Back at San Francisco State, she organized exhibits in conjunction with, among others, the Cini Foundation in Venice, the Vatican Museum, and the San Francisco Symphony, and helped commemorate Vivaldi's 300th anniversary with a major conference and exhibition. In 1981, she was project director and planning committee co-chair of a conference on "Italy in the 1980s," sponsored by the World Affairs Council, San Francisco.

Serena de Bellis' achievements are too numerous to give full credit here. But lest we forget, she has been a long-time member of the Music Library Association and served as our chapter chair for three successive terms in the 1970s. We wish her well in her retirement and value her continued involvement in the MLA.

*Patricia Elliott*

**A Tribute to Mary Ashe**  
(Reprinted from ARLIS Northern California Chapter Newsletter, Spring 1992, with permission)

After almost 34 years of service, Mary Ashe, head of the Art and Music Department, San Francisco Public Library, retired on March 27, 1992.

Mary was born in San Francisco and is the daughter of a native San Franciscan. She earned her A.B. at the San Francisco College for Women. While there she began her graduate studies before she enrolled in Stanford University where she received her Master's degree in English.

Beginning in 1957, Mary has spent her entire working career at the San Francisco Public Library. After serving in Periodicals, Reference, Circulation, and Literature departments, as well as working in various branches, Mary took leave to earn her M.L.S. at Columbia University in 1966. Soon after returning to SFPL, she was appointed Librarian in Charge of the Art and Music Department, a position she has held until retirement.

Throughout her career, Mary has been very active in professional organizations. Her long term membership in ALA includes service as chairperson of the ACRL ARTS Section (1975-77). A member of the Music Library Association since the mid-1960's, she co-chaired the summer conference in 1976; served on the Board of Directors (1978-80); nominating committee (1979); and was a member of the Reference and Public Service Interest Group and is active in the Northern California Chapter. Mary also served on the Executive Board (1977-80) of the Theatre Library Association.

Mary was also involved in the Art Librarians' Round Table, an informal predecessor to the Northern California Chapter of ARLIS and her long association with ARLIS began as a member of the founding Charter Committee. She was elected president of ARLIS in 1984 and continues her activities in the Standards Committee, Public Library Subcommittee (chair, 1975), International Relations Committee, and in

the Northern California Chapter.

Her membership in IFLA includes activities in the Section of Art Libraries. She has also maintained memberships in the International Association of Music Librarians, California Library Association, and College Art Association.

In retirement, Mary plans on continuing to participate in various professional organizations, including ARLIS [and MLA, currently serving as co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1993 Annual Meeting--Ed.] Keenly interested in the international aspects of librarianship, she is planning on attending the IFLA annual conference in New Delhi in August of this year. This ties in with her interest in travel, especially to offbeat places (she has already explored Egypt, Ethiopia, Japan, Australia, New Guinea, and Peru).

I am sure that her many friends will join me in wishing Mary a rewarding, well-earned retirement (even if it's a "tin handshake" rather than a "golden" one, as she explained). We look forward to seeing her at many future ARLIS [and MLA--Ed.] meetings where her intelligence and wit will continue to enliven many a session.

James R. Burch, ARLIS

#### 1992 International Computer Music Conference at SJSU

The Music Department at San Jose State University will be hosting the 1992 International Computer Music Association Conference, October 14-17. This gathering of composers, performers and scientists from around the world will feature nearly 100 technical presentations on topics ranging from "software environments" to "sound in space." Concerts will be held in Morris Dailey Auditorium at 1 and 8 p.m. Oct. 14, 15 and 17, and at 1 p.m. on Oct. 16. A cabaret concert featuring Swiss composer/performer Bruno Spoerri and American electronic instrument designer Don Buchla is planned for 10 p.m. Oct. 16 at the San Jose Convention Center. "EarthBits," a series of free performances, is also slated for Oct. 14-17. For further information and the complete schedule, call (408) 924-4675.

### Beethoven Bibliography Project

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded \$67,500 in federal matching funds to the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies for the Beethoven Bibliography Project. The two-year grant will be used to hire research and technical assistants for subject indexing and online input. The Beethoven Center plans to begin the NEH-funded phase of the project in January 1993, with the objective of indexing 5,000 books and periodical articles.

The Beethoven Bibliography Project is being developed as a unique online file in the San Jose State University's INNOPAC catalog. The main menu and limit options of the database include searching by opus numbers, book and music genres, publishers' plate numbers, languages, and dates in addition to the traditional search keys by author, title, and subject. The database will have its own online authority structure, and a printed list of the project's special subject terms will be available in a thesaurus format. Off-site users will have dial-up access to the bibliography within the next two years. The database will eventually include an estimated 22,000 fully-indexed bibliographic records for books, periodical articles, scores and manuscripts.

For further information, contact Patricia Elliott, Curator, at (408) 924-4590 or through Bitnet at ELLIOTT@SJSUVM1.

### New President at Stanford

(Excerpted and edited from the *Stanford University Campus Report*, September 9, 1992, with permission)

Stanford University's ninth president, Gerhard Casper, officially took office on September 1, 1992. Emphasizing central academic purposes, President Casper announced on Wednesday, September 9 a simplified organizational structure for his new administration. Casper set out a plan that formally consolidates academic functions under the provost, the university's chief academic officer and second-ranking official, and reduces the number of vice presidential offices to four. Among other changes, the plan also gives the vice presidency for Libraries and Information Resources vice provost status to reflect its academic importance.

President Casper said that financial savings stemming from the changes will be used to strengthen one of the core academic operations of the university--the library.

He announced that the university will reestablish the suspended position of Director of Stanford University Libraries, and that Keith Baker, professor of history and chairman of the faculty library committee, will chair the search for the new director.

"I believe that Stanford was foresighted when it responded to the challenges of information technology by combining libraries with other informa-

tion resources," Casper said. "However, the libraries need a director who can pay careful attention to the development and use of our book collections."

The library director will be part of the provost's office, reporting to the Vice Provost for Libraries and Information Resources.

### **An Invitation from the South**

The Music Library Association, Southern California Chapter, will be having a joint meeting on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14, 1992. The Friday meeting will be held at the Center for Research in Computing and the Arts on the UC San Diego campus; Saturday's meeting will be held at Sherwood Hall, La Jolla, at the Museum of Contemporary Arts, San Diego.

The working title for the meeting is "Documenting the Indescribable: Interdisciplinary Arts and the Library," and a rich panoply of speakers and topics is expected. A special guest speak on Saturday afternoon will be theatrical director/producer Peter Sellars. The meeting will include sessions entitled "Describing the Indescribable," a panel discussion which will give an overview of developments since 1970 in the multidisciplinary arts; "New Technologies and the Arts," in which speakers will demonstrate the latest in high-tech wizardry; "Doing

If you belong to the chapter, but not to the national organization, page 12 is just for you.

It!" will showcase performers in a concert/event of cutting-edge arts; and "The Challenge to Libraries," in which a panel of librarians will respond to Mr. Sellars and provide their perspectives on libraries' and librarians' concerns in this area.

Additionally, attendees will be treated to a free special concert Friday night by the performing group [THE], a voice and trumpet duo. [THE], acclaimed in the press for their novelty, energy and sheer entertainment, will present a program which will dynamically illustrate the interdisciplinary aspects of today's arts.

Meeting attendance is free for MLA/SCC and ARLIS/SC members; for others there is a \$5.00 fee. For further information, or for a pre-program flier, call Claire Eike, Librarian, San Diego Museum of Art (619) 232-7931, ext. 190; or Linda Barnhart, Music Library, UC San Diego (619) 534-2767.

### Music OCLC Users Group to meet in San Francisco

The Music OCLC Users Group will hold its annual meeting on February 2-3, 1993 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. Registration will begin at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 2nd. A plenary session and reception will be held that evening, followed by a full slate of activities on Wednesday, February 3rd, including two plenary sessions and a host of "small group sessions" designed to encourage discussion, information sharing, and demonstration. The program covers a wide range of topics: format integration, issues in workflow and staffing, applications of OCLC products and services in both the public and technical services realms of music libraries, and more.

The Music OCLC Users Group is a group of individuals and institutions having a professional interest in all OCLC products, systems, and services and their impact on music libraries, music materials and music users. MOUG members and all interested parties are invited to attend the annual meeting. For more information, contact Timothy Cherubini, MOUG Continuing Education Coordinator, Duke University Music Library, Box 90661, Durham, NC 27708-0661, telephone (919) 684-3213; FAX (919) 681-8678; E-mail TJC@DUKEMVS.BITNET.

### Chapter Minutes

Minutes of the MLA/NCC business meeting held May 1, 1992 at the Oakland Public Library.

Kevin Freeman, chapter chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Kevin expressed thanks to Jean Blinn of the Oakland Public Library for hosting the meeting.

### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Kevin asked Judy Tsou, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the annual MLA Meeting in San Francisco, February 1-7, 1993, to report on the Committee's activity. Members of the Committee are: Judy Tsou, chair, Mary Ashe, Michael Colby, Jeff Earnest, Pat Elliott, Kevin Freeman, Richard Koprofski, Joan O'Connor, Beth Rebman, John Roberts, Phil Schreur, Mimi Tashiro and Marion Taylor.

Several tours are being planned. ARLIS, which will also be meeting at the St. Francis Hotel immediately prior to the MLA meeting, has invited MLA to join their full-day tour to the wine country on Wednesday, February 3. The tour will highlight an art collection and architectural points of interest. Other possible tours include a half-day tour to the wine country, an organ crawl in San Francisco and a trip to Stanford University to visit the Music Library, the Archive of Recorded Sound and the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA).