

# MLA NCC Newsletter

## Music Library Association Northern California Chapter

Vol. 7, no. 2 (Spring  
1993)

### FROM THE CHAIR

*Martha Weil*

The national conference in San Francisco was a great success according to all reports. I certainly found it stimulating and enjoyable. Let me repeat the praises from all quarters for our local arrangements committee, ably chaired by Judy Tsou and Mary Ashe. Remember when Kären first suggested the possibility of our hosting the national conference? Years later, it actually became a reality. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make all the mechanics flow so smoothly.

The only drawback to the national meeting is that it leaves me with a very tough act to follow; but all the same, our Spring chapter meeting will take place at Humboldt State University on April 23 and 24. I'm hoping that you're not all too exhausted--including your travel funds, if anyone still gets funds for professional travel--to find your way up north next month. All our winter rain has had a very positive effect on the landscape; right now trillium are carpeting the woods, and redwood sorrel flowers dot the shade with rosy pink. By next

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month, the wild rhododendrons and redbuds should be making a show along the highway, and the sun may be shining on all the green. A registration form is included in the Newsletter. Please return it to me as soon as possible. I will forward you a brochure with everything you need to know about accommodations and recreation in Humboldt County, as well as a map of the Humboldt State campus. If you have any questions about how to get here, where to stay, where to eat, etc., please call me. My number at work is 707-826-4930, and at home it's 707-444-2909. Both numbers have answering machines. You can also reach me via email: my address is [weilmar@axe.humboldt.edu](mailto:weilmar@axe.humboldt.edu).

The plan is for Friday to be a travel day, with a reception and a concert that evening. Saturday will be our business meeting. We will be electing some new officers as well as discussing a possible memorial for Bob Basart and ideas for membership recruitment, among other things. Look for information about some of these issues elsewhere in the Newsletter. Our program will feature two professors in the Music Department at Humboldt

State who are specialists in early instruments and Baroque performance. Unfortunately, the Humboldt Calypso Band will not be in residence; their tour dates were changed at the last minute, and they will all be in southern California that weekend. There will also be opportunities to tour the lovely campus and to visit the Ensemble Music Library, which is used for the Chamber Music Workshop, as well as for music instruction. I am looking forward eagerly to seeing many of you here and returning your hospitality, as well as to moving forward with Chapter business.

Return those registration forms to me:

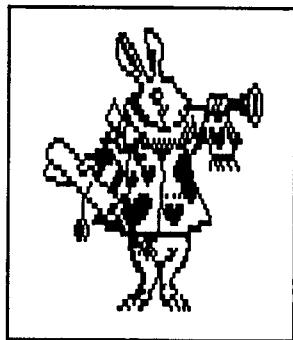
Martha Weil  
The Library  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521

#### NATIONAL MEETING IN S.F.

#### MLA PRESENTS SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO ANN BASART

During 1990, the Music Library Association Board of Directors established a new award, the Special Achievement Award, to recognize

members of the Music Library Association who have made a special contribution to the Association and the profession through very specific activities. At the 1993



Annual Meeting of the Association in San Francisco, Don L. Roberts, President of MLA, announced the awarding of the Special Achievement Award to Ann Basart. Ms. Basart was formerly a music librarian at the University of California at Berkeley and is the owner of Fallen Leaf Press.

The text of the citation to Ms. Basart reads in part:

In recognition of her distinguished service to music librarianship

THE MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
awards this citation to  
ANN P. BASART

In her many contributions as reference librarian, publisher, author, editor, adviser, teacher, and mentor, she has upheld the highest standards of our discipline. Through her excitement for the profession of music librarianship and her *joie de vivre*, she is an inspiration to her colleagues.

Mr. Roberts also stated that Ms. Basart "has brought great reputation and honor to music librarianship."

Ralph Papakhian was the winner of the first Special Achievement Award. The award is proposed by a special committee appointed by the President of MLA and approved by the Board of Directors. Nominations for this award may be made to any officer or director of MLA.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE  
HELPS MAKE THE NATIONAL MLA  
MEETING A SUCCESS

*Judy Tsou*

"Superb job!"

"Absolutely wonderful conference in a splendid location and with superb weather."

"What a wonderful concert and reception!"

"Even the banquet food was gourmet; I love the Pacific Rim theme."

These are just a handful of the many complimentary comments the Local Arrangements Committee received for the absolutely first-rate job they did for the Music Library Association 62nd annual meeting in San Francisco. The excellent program, planned by Holly Mockovak (Boston University), also reflected the Pacific Rim theme. Lou Harrison spoke of the Asian influence in his music in the oral history plenary session; Linda Burman-Hall, a faculty member at the University of California at Santa Cruz, lectured on the Gamelan in the World Music Roundtable; and the conference concluded with a Pacific Rim banquet with the UC Santa Cruz Gamelan providing the entertainment, arranged by Marion Taylor of UC Santa Cruz. The evening ended with banquet attendees dancing with the performers. As one board member put it, "a Javanese Conga line!" And of course, the city-sponsored Chinese New Year parade right before the banquet added to our Pacific Rim theme too.

There were also many more

traditional programs at the conference. Among them were plenary sessions on Music Reference in the 90s, and on documenting the history of computer music. The Ask MLA sessions included cataloging and circulation concerns this year. Many committee and roundtable open sessions also included programs. Of note were the Women and Music Roundtable, which invited local dignitaries such as JoAnn Falleta, the conductor of the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic, to speak at the open session. The Subject Access Subcommittee included an update of the Music Thesaurus Project as well as other interesting presentations by Bay Area music librarians. These are just some of the highlights of a very rich program.

Not to be outdone by the program committee, the Local Arrangements Committee put on an impressive array of activities for conference attendees. Kevin Freeman arranged a tour to the headquarters of the Dolby Laboratories; Joan O'Connor, with the help of San Francisco organist Charles Rus, organized an organ crawl which included a tour of the Schoenstein Factory. Mimi Tashiro, Richard Koprowski, Jeff Earnest, and Kevin Freeman arranged a half-day excursion to the Stanford campus. John Roberts arranged a unique concert of music from the manuscript collection of the Berkeley Music Library with the help of musicians from the Music Department. The concert was followed by a

reception in the Morrison Library on the Berkeley campus, funded by both UC Berkeley (Dorothy Gregor, University Librarian, and Joseph Kerman, Chair, Music Department) and Stanford University Library (Kären Nagy, Director of Academic Information Services). Beth Rebman led an able crew of student assistants and other members of the local arrangements, Pat Elliott, Mimi Tashiro, and Michael Colby, in a successful reception. Beth Rebman, John Roberts, Mimi Tashiro, Richard Koprowski, and Marion Taylor put on an impressive exhibit of the "Music Treasures of the Bay Area Libraries" for the concert and reception attendees to enjoy. The evening went smoothly also in part because of the ease in which the local arrangers moved all the attendees from one location to another. Joseph Kerman told me "you guys know how to move people around," which means that we REALLY ran a smooth operation. Of course, standing in the dark with a flashlight was not the most fun job, but Michael Colby, Jeff Earnest, Richard Koprowski, Joan O'Connor, Jean Blinn, Mary Ashe, Mimi Tashiro, Phil Schreur, and others did it without complaint.

There were many jobs that the local arrangers did that were of less visibility. Pat Elliott, in addition to helping with the reception, also planned a wine country tour that we eventually cancelled because of the ARLIS-planned tour. Barbara

Jeskalian compiled the Berkeley Restaurant Guide for the conference attendees. Jeff Earnest was our chief negotiator with the bus companies and got us the best deal for all the transportation for the tours and outings. In addition, he made sure that everybody got on the bus and that nobody was left behind, no small feat. And words could not describe the amount of work that Phil Schreur and Kevin Freeman did before the conference: registering all the attendees, ordering supplies, making name tags, taking care of refunds and special needs, scheduling the registration desk, and many more tasks. With the help of many local arrangers: Mary Ashe, Jean Blinn, Michael Colby, Jeff Earnest, Pat Elliott, Kevin Freeman, Joan O'Connor, Beth Rebman, John Roberts, and Mimi Tashiro, we were able to stuff the registration packets in record time. Many of these same local arrangers and other Northern and Southern California Chapter members helped at the registration desk throughout the conference, whether early in the morning (as early as 7:30 am!) or late at night (to 10 pm and without dinner sometimes). Among them are Leslie Andersen, Mary Ashe, Sally Berlowitz, Jean Blinn, Janet Bochin, Judy Clarence, Michael Colby, Sarah Dorsey, Pat Elliott, Kevin Freeman, Kathy Glennan, Elvira James, Barbara Jeskalian, Richard Koprowski, Ray Reeder, John Roberts, Phil Schreur, Debbie Smith, Lorelei Tanji, Mimi Tashiro, Marion Taylor, Martha

Weil, Lynn Wold, and Lou Wolfe.

ARLIS cooperated with us in making this a successful conference. They let us in on their wine country and architectural tours; they provided an excellent San Francisco restaurant and tourist guide for us; and they shared information such as the bus prices and supplier prices with us too. Thank you Kathryn Wayne, co-chair of ARLIS local arrangements, who spent many hours on the phone and in meetings with me. Of course a successful conference like this could not have happened without the help of Ned Quist, the convention manager, Christine Hoffman, the assistant convention manager who found us such a wonderful hotel, and the support of the board. I am sure that I left out names of many who ought to be thanked; but I do thank you all who helped us make this such a successful conference. And finally, I'd like to end with Christine Hoffman's comment on our conference: "This conference had a finesse from beginning to end that will be difficult for future conferences to live up to."

*[Many thanks are also due to Judy Tsou for her seemingly tireless and dedicated contributions as co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee--Ed.]*

#### FEATURED EXHIBIT AT MLA

Fiori Musicali  
from the collections of  
University of California,  
Berkeley  
Stanford University  
University of California,  
Santa Cruz

In conjunction with the national MLA meeting, an exhibit was mounted in the Doe Library at the Berkeley campus. This exhibition presented "musical flowers" from three of the area's university libraries. The title is borrowed from a famous book of organ music by the 17th-century composer Frescobaldi.

The Music Library of the University of California, Berkeley was represented primarily by manuscripts. Particularly noteworthy were an 11th-century chant manuscript, the Wolffheim Antiphonal; the only surviving copy of Alessandro Scarlatti's first Neapolitan opera *L'Aldimiro*; and the autograph score of Stravinsky's ballet *Orpheus*. Lovers of 17th-century keyboard music had the opportunity to examine the well-known Parville manuscript, while star-gazers may have preferred the musical productions of astronomer William Herschel.

The contributions of Ernest Bloch, Luigi Dallapiccola, Charles Koechlin, and Roger Sessions to local musical life were signaled with three of their autograph scores. A concert featuring music from several of these sources took

place during the MLA meeting.

Stanford University was represented by a group of theoretical writings of the 16th through the 18th centuries, drawn from the Music Library and the Department of Special Collections, and by historical sound recordings and related documents from the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound. Among the treatises displayed were publications of Zarlino and Vincenzo Galilei (the father of Galileo) and a manuscript of an unpublished work by J. G. Neidhardt. Recordings shown included a 20-inch disc pressed by Pathé about 1912 and a Victor "picture disc" from the 1930s.

From the University of California, Santa Cruz came music manuscripts and artifacts relating to two giants of 20th-century American music, Lou Harrison and John Cage. The striking and colorful manuscript of Harrison's Suite for Strings was reproduced on the cover of the MLA program book. The friendship between the two composers was symbolized by a copy of Schoenberg's Third String Quartet given to Harrison by Cage, who designed and made the unusual binding. Also shown were some items from Cage's extensive mycology collection, presented to the university because he had so enjoyed hunting mushrooms in the Santa Cruz area.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### FALL 1992 MEETING OF MLA/NCC *Patricia Elliott*

About thirty of our members gathered at the Pacific Film Archive at UC Berkeley on October 30, 1992, for the Fall meeting of the MLA/NCC. Nancy Goldman, head of the PFA Library and Film Studies Center, lead a tour of her facilities and described the Archive's film preservation projects. During the tour, we witnessed her staff in action, answering phone reference questions and organizing their clippings and other archival files. In the Gund Theater, Ms. Goldman showed us five representative but very diverse films from the archives. Two silent films offered us a glimpse of San Francisco's Market Street the year before the 1906 earthquake and a fragment of a rare 1919 Italian dramatic version of *La Tosca*. Mixed in with these silent treats were an American avant garde film (an unsettling collage of images of nudity and death); a master class with Pablo Casals; and a Cuban documentary describing the reactions of isolated villagers reactions to their first exposure to film and the antics of Charlie Chaplin.

After the business meeting, about 20 members reassembled at the Shattuck Hotel to fete Mary Ashe, Serena de Bellis, and Richard Colvig. Our dinner at the Dining Room was delightful, and we hope to continue this tradition of honoring our retirees.

Many thanks to Judy Tsou and Phil Schreur for their assistance with the arrangements for this meeting.

MINUTES FROM THE FALL MEETING  
*Joan O'Connor*

The Fall 1992 MLA/NCC meeting was held on the campus of UC Berkeley. Following announcements about the film and dinner for retirees Serena de Bellis, Richard Colvig, and Mary Ashe, the minutes of the last meeting were approved. The Local Arrangements Committee chairperson, Judy Tsou, reported on preparations for the national MLA meeting in February 1993. The membership committee remains inactive. The Spring meeting at Humboldt State on April 23-24, 1993 may feature such interesting things as early instruments, steel drums, and a calypso band.

The Round Robin comprised the remainder of the business meeting. Kevin Freeman from Stanford announced that there is a new president at Stanford. When Kären Nagy's position was lost the music library was reorganized: Barbara Sawka is responsible for the administrative duties; Mimi Tashiro is the assistant head as well as the head of collection development; Kevin Freeman is the assistant head of technical services as well as head of acquisitions.

Pat Elliott reported that the Beethoven Center has received an NEH grant which requires matching funds. They will be adding a full-time

musicologist and a part-time data entry clerk to their staff.

Lou Wolfe announced that the San Francisco Conservatory of Music has a new president, resulting in a dean search, all while celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Judy Tsou stated that UC Berkeley will complete its recon for records next summer (1993). The card catalog will continue. The budget cut has affected library assistants by reducing their work to a 3/4 time equivalent position. Innovative Interfaces may replace GLADIS.

Ray Reeder, from Hayward State, has officially retired ("retarded," in his words). He reports that Hay State now has a rotating library director.

Sally Berlowitz from San Francisco State University is the titular music selector; Richard Ross has now retired. A search for the new university librarian is taking place.

Pat Hall from San Francisco Public Library announced furloughs, reduced hours, and a possible ballot measure for property tax funding of the library. Bids have gone out for construction of the new Main Library, which will be completed in 1996.

Michael Colby from UC Davis talked of early retirements, and his duties in cataloging, and humanities and social sciences reference. The music