

# MLA NCC NEWSLETTER

## MLA/NCC Spring Meeting—May 3, 1996

*Judy Clarence*

The Northern California Chapter held its Spring meeting in North Berkeley at MusicSources, a large old house which serves as center focusing on the performance of music from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Following lunch at a nearby Indian restaurant, the group met in the small theater area of MusicSources for its business meeting (see Minutes, below), then enjoyed a welcome and introduction by harpsichordist, teacher, producer, and guiding light of MusicSources, Laurette Goldberg. She spoke of MusicSources as a gathering place for the mind and spirit; it provides a space for the performance and teaching of music rarely heard elsewhere. She then gave us a tour throughout the building; we visited the library, examined and listened to the many unusual harpsichords, clavichords early pianos, lutes, and other early instruments. A special highlight was the History Garden, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Italian style garden featuring fruit trees and flowers from four centuries, and hand-painted baroque murals on the garden walls.

Ms. Goldberg, who is losing her long-time volunteer librarian because of a move to a retirement home, put in a special plea for help from we librarians in locating a replacement—someone willing to put in a few hours a month for a wonderful cause.

May 3 was a lovely, enjoyable day. We wish everyone could have been there!

## Music Library Association Northern California Chapter

Vol. 11, no. 1 (Fall 1996)

### AIDS Quilt Panel for Kevin Freeman

Work has begun on Kevin's Quilt panel, with the aim of completing it by the third anniversary of his death on September 18<sup>th</sup>. In October the panel will be taken to Washington, D.C., where it will be shown in the new panel area near the Capitol when the entire Quilt is displayed for 3 days starting on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

"Quilting" sessions will be held at Stanford and in San Francisco between now and then. And there's plenty to do, as the panel is going to be 12 feet tall by 3 feet wide. Please come if you can. No special sewing skills are needed, but bring a favorite pair of scissors, thimble, needles, or the like if you want.

The Stanford sessions are each Thursday evenings in August, from 5 to 7pm, in the Archive of Recorded Sound, Braun Music Center basement. For information or directions, call Richard Koprowski at (415) 723-9312. Additional sessions will be scheduled for September.

In San Francisco, work on the panel will be done from 2 to 5pm on Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Hank Dutt, 377 Mangels Avenue. Call Hank for directions: (415)337-0486.

Chapter members and their friends are, of course, welcome to come and lend their hands.

Mimi Tashiro, Stanford Music Library  
(mtashiro@leland.stanford.edu)  
Richard Koprowski, Archive of Recorded Sound  
(koprowski@stanford.edu)

## **Minutes of the Business Meeting May 3, 1996**

### **Announcements:**

Chair Janet Bochin stated that during 1997-98 it will be MLA/NCC's turn to host the Northern/Southern California chapters' meeting; we should begin to give thought to that event.

Janet also announced that chapters need to submit requests for grant money from MLA by April 15 for special projects.

### **Old Business:**

There was discussion about programming: some felt the programs should be more subject-oriented. A practical focus makes it easier for some participants to be granted time off to attend meetings. It was suggested that the Fall 1997 meeting might be held in conjunction with ARLIS's meeting. We need to appoint a fourth person to serve on the Program Committee along with Sally Berlowitz, Judy Clarence, and Pat Elliott.

### **Newsletter Future:**

Michael Colby is unable to continue producing the Newsletter. Jason Gibbs of San Francisco Public Library has agreed to take on this responsibility.

### **The Future of the Chapter:**

All present agreed there is a need to boost membership. We currently have 56 people on our membership list, but 19 of these have not paid dues for over three years. The Membership Committee (Janet Bochin, Marion Taylor, Judy Clarence) will work on attracting new members. One idea is to send out a flyer to "Music Librarian" in all libraries in Northern California.

### **Locations for Future Meetings:**

Mentioned as possibilities are Canada College (which has a musical show

collection) and KKHI in Corte Madera. The Fall, 1996 meeting will be held in the new San Francisco Public Library facility.

### **Election:**

Sally Berlowitz of San Francisco State University was elected Vice-Chair, Chair Elect for 1996-97.

The usual Round Robin followed, and the meeting was adjourned so that attendees could enjoy the MusicSources tour and presentation.

## **News from the San Francisco San San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum**

SF PALM, in collaboration with the San Francisco Opera, has produced a compact disc of historic operatic selections from the Standard Hour, the West's oldest oldest classical radio program and one of PALM's most valued collections. The Standard Hour was broadcast live from 18 West Coast cities between 1926 and 1955, presenting different orchestras, with prominent soloists and conductors. Most of the programs, however, were performed by the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Opera.

This recording includes performances by Bidu Sayao, Jan Peerce, Ezio Pinza, with Gaetano Merolo conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. This recording is available only as a premium to those donating \$100 or more to PALM's year-end challenge grant.

PALM has also recently received the Robert Moonan Papers. This collection consists primarily of clippings, as well as some compositions. Early in his career, Moonan was a musical director for Bing Crosby. He was organist at Old St. Mary's Church in San Francisco during the 1950s through 1970s. During that time he was also a band leader.

## Out of the Old - Into the New ...

*Jason Gibbs*

Anybody who has ever had to move out of their apartment or house quickly comes to the amazed discovery of how much "stuff" can be tucked away in every closet, corner, basement, and attic. Especially when one has lived far too long in cramped surroundings. The San Francisco Public Library Main Library outgrew its 1917 building over 30 years ago, thus it was with great relief that we moved into our new building next door. Preceding the relief, however, was a period of locating, packing, and mapping our collections and pondering how they would fit into their new home.

During the course of moving we uncovered a great deal more material than we knew we had. A large part of this were sets of parts arranged for light classical, theatre, or radio orchestra that nobody knows wherefore or why we have. One day we discovered large wooden trunks packed with this music in a dusty, poorly-lit corner room in the old building's basement. We also came across a variety of sheet music -- probably gifts from the public over the years. Among this music we found manuscript scores by Hermann Genss, a German-born composer who lived and taught music in San Francisco until his death in 1940. The library has also found a large set of published compositions by Julia Klumpkey, a San Francisco composer and violinist active during the middle of this century.

One collection that has been coming to during our preparation for the move has been papers from the Campion Society. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Campion Society, founded and directed by composers John Edmunds and Leonard Ralston, organized an annual "Festival of Songs in English," which later became the "Campion Festival." In 1948 the society established the "Campion

Library of Songs" in the then Music Division of the San Francisco Public Library, with Jessica Fredricks as Librarian. The collection consists of a small number of manuscripts, several ozalid copies of scores, a large number of published songs from John Edmunds' personal collection as well as some programs and correspondence relating to the collection.

Another important item rescued from a dusty corner of the library was Jessica Fredrick's uncompleted expanded edition of her dictionary, *California Composers*. It consists of typescript entries on primarily Northern California composers with proofreading marks, as well as the surveys turned in by the composers (including handwritten responses from John Cage and Harry Partch). This Dictionary is augmented by an uncompleted dictionary undertaken by our chapter circa 1963 which uses Fredrick's entries as a basis and adds survey forms from composers active in the Bay Area during the early 1960s.

During the move, I also repacked the Dorothy Starr sheet music collection. It is now waiting in boxes in an underground storage area next to the new building. If you saw any of the publicity surrounding the opening of the New Main Library, you may have come to believe that the entire collection was scanned and available online, but the real truth is that around 1,000 pieces of popular sheet music have been scanned (consisting of title beginning with the letters A to C in the alphabet), given abbreviated MARC format cataloging. They may be viewed on multi-media stations within the Main Library. Owing to copyright issues, none of them can be copied, or reproduced in any other way. The library hopes to eventually scan around 15,000 pieces of sheet music.

A resulting shock from discovering all we had tucked away in the old building, was the realization that we have outgrown our new quarters already. The move itself went rather smoothly all things considered. But we did not have adequate time before opening to rearrange the collections as well as we would like and fully utilize the new space.

We will probably continue to undergo a lengthy time of adjustment, but, if the number of visitors is any indication, we will continue to be a popular and busy place.

We hope everyone will come to see us for the Fall MLA/NCC meeting.

### **Media/Music Merger at Cal State Hayward**

*Judy Clarence*

With the retirement a few years ago of Ray Reeder (remembered fondly I know by most of you--he's now happily ensconced in New Mexico) and his able assistant Denise Kissack, the Music Library at California State University, Hayward, fell onto hard times. An asbestos removal project in the area caused it to become virtually uninhabitable as scaffolding covered the ceilings, lighting was non-existent. Noxious-looking (though harmless, we were assured) white powder dusted the tops of desks, bookshelves and turntables. The Music Dept. faculty, with good reason, discouraged its students from using the Library. No librarian was readily available, and the student assistants were under-utilized and ill-equipped to handle questions.

In the fall of 1994, CSU Hayward's new Library Director, Noreen Alldredge, asked me to serve half time as Music Librarian. A major part of my charge was to assess the situation in the Music Library and come up

with suggestions. By then the scaffolding had come down, cleaning crews had removed most of the gunk, and a new quarter was starting.

I began with a massive outreach to the Music Dept. faculty, talking individually with everyone, and learned that the Music Library was indeed very important to them (we're one of the very few CSU campuses with a separate Music Library), as long as it provided a healthy, comfortable environment and reasonably knowledgeable staff. I then visited other nearby music facilities in the CSU system (thanks to my colleagues Martha Johansen, Margaret Jourdain, Sally Berlowitz and Barbara Jeskalian!) At Sonoma State I found the situation which seemed most closely to parallel our own--a combined Media/Music Library. Margaret Jourdain gave me much inspiration and many good pointers.

We had recently added our Instructional Media Center holdings (videos, film strips, etc.) to HAYSTAC (our online catalog, provided by Innovative Interfaces, so it seemed a logical step to invite the Media Center (which had never been part of the Library) to consider merging into our physical facility. Clearly, our quite spacious Music Library area was still underutilized--the Media Center was running out of room and was unable to provide service during evening and weekend hours. A merger would enable our non-traditional students to access video materials off-hours, and would allow better staffing for Music students as well. The Music Dept. faculty were delighted with the idea of a merger--they'd feared that perhaps they'd lose their beloved Music Library altogether, and to them this plan provided security.

I met with Dick Apple, who operated the Media Center--he was enthusiastic. Together we developed a proposal which was approved, and in January of 1996 the merger took place. We are now the Media/Music Library, which houses music scores, music books, music reference materials, tapes, CDs, LPs, along with general video materials, with listening/viewing equipment available for all formats. The facility is mildly bustling, and well staffed (two student assistants most of the time, and Dick and I both have our offices here as well). I'm available for musical advice and music reference, (in addition to a full load of general reference and collection development duties) and Dick oversees the media booking and acquisitions and general day-to-day management. We're pleased, and our patrons are pleased.

Come visit! We'd love to show you around.

## News

*Cecilia Reclaimed: Feminist Perspectives on Gender and Music*, edited by Susan Cook and **Judith Tsou** (University of Illinois Press, 1995) is a recent winner of the eleventh annual Susan Koppelman Award Competition. This award is sponsored by the Joint Women's Caucus of the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association and honors "feminist editing of anthologies, multi-authored, or edited books in American Culture or Popular Cultural Studies of any place or time."

**Edward Colby** has been continuing his research on Asian Victor labels as part of William R. Moran's ongoing Victor discography. He reports progress in identifying sources and in contacting people who can assist in translation.

**Fallen Leaf Press** has just published a small collection of letters of Virgil Thomson. It's called *Everbest Ever: Correspondence with Bay Area Friends*, and it's "gathered and annotated by Charles Shere with Margery Tede." Cloth is \$24, paper \$14. 106 pp.

Last year **John Emerson** traveled to the National Archive in Washington where he uncovered information on the W.P.A. Federal Music Project. His work on this material has currently been set aside while he updates his articles on French chant and Medieval liturgy for the new edition of the Grove Dictionary. He will have an article on the history of the performance of opera in San Francisco in a forthcoming festschrift.

**Ken Pristash** joined the staff of San Francisco Public Library as music cataloger last December. He was for many years Audio Librarian and Assistant Director of Libraries at the New England Conservatory in Boston. Ken's library degree is from Simmons College, also in Boston. His undergraduate degree is from Northwestern University, where he majored in music theory and composition, and he has an M.M. in choral conducting from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore.

Ken's performance activity has been mainly as a chorister in such ensembles as the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the Bach Society of Baltimore, and the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston. Now he is very happy to be in the audience for the Bay Area's wide variety of musical offerings.

**Jason Gibbs'** article "A Musical Instrument Workshop in Hanoi," has just appeared in the September 1996 issue of *Experimental Musical Instruments*. His composition *Thoughts Have Wings* for solo bassoon will be premiered at the Koret Auditorium of the San Francisco New Main Library at a 2:00 P.M. concert on October 26.

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**Calendar**

October 3-5, 1996. "More Byte than Bach? The Impact of Technology in Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres" IAML (Australia) Biennial Conference, Melbourne University, Parkville, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Contact georgina.binns@lib.monash.edu.au

October 11, 1996. Music Library Association / Northern California Chapter. San Francisco Public Library. 1:00-4:00.

October 24-27, 1996. College Music Society, 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia.

October 31-November 3, 1996. Society for Ethnomusicology, 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. Toronto, Ontario. Contact SEM Local Arrangements Committee, Music Dept., Winters College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, North York, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3

November 7-10, 1996. American Musicological Conference. Contact ams96@peabody.jhu.edu

November 16-19, 1996. CLA Annual Conference, Sacramento. Contact: CLA Office (916) 447-8541

January 29-February 2, 1997. Music Library Association. New Orleans, Louisiana.

March 5-9, 1997 Sonneck Society, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington. Contact Program Chair, Rae Linda Brown, School of the Arts-Music, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA 92717

**Job announcement**

REPOSTING OF RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION -BEETHOVEN BIBLIOGRAPHY DATABASE, CENTER FOR BEETHOVEN STUDIES, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

**Title:** Research Assistant

**Posting Date:** August 14, 1996

**Closing Date:** September 15, 1996 or until filled

**Salary:** \$1,062 per month plus benefits.

**Appointment:** 50% time (20 hours a week) 17-month position with the possibility of extension. The Research Assistant serves as the principal subject indexer for the Beethoven Bibliography Database at the Center for Beethoven Studies.

**Responsibilities:**

Analyze significant subject content of books and other literature on Ludwig van Beethoven in English, German, and other languages. Use indexes, tables of contents, abstracts, and the texts themselves to determine major and minor subject headings. Consult Library of Congress Subject Headings and other on-line and printed lists to determine authorized forms of headings. Formulate new terms to be added to the Beethoven Bibliography Database Thesaurus.

Translate portions of texts from German into English; write summaries or abstracts of other foreign language material.

Other duties may include: on-line data input; preparation of data for statistical reports; basic research using music reference sources.

**Knowledge, skills and abilities:**

Knowledge of music history and literature with emphasis on the Classical or Romantic periods. Knowledge of research in Beethoven studies.

Advanced reading knowledge of Advanced reading knowledge of German (testing

required). Ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationships with others and to work effectively under the pressure of deadlines.

**Education and experience:**

Bachelor's degree in music required. Advanced degree (M.A. or Ph.D.) in musicology highly desirable. Master's degree in library science and indexing experience can be substituted for advanced degree in musicology.

Experience as a Beethoven researcher, music research assistant, or translator highly desirable.

Knowledge of languages other than German highly desirable.

**Application Procedure:**

Application forms and information may be obtained from the Foundation Human Resources Department, San Jose State University, Administration Building, Room 255. Resumes are welcomed but MUST be accompanied by the SJSU Foundation Application. (Only Foundation Applications will be accepted). Applicants will be required to perform an indexing and translating exercise to be returned with the application. To request an application, please call the SJSU Foundation at (408) 924-1460, or write to:

San Jose State University Foundation  
Human Resources - Research Assistant  
PO Box 720130  
San Jose, CA 95172-0130

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If you have questions about the Research Assistant position or the Beethoven Center, please contact Patricia Elliott, Curator, at [elliott@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu](mailto:elliott@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu) or (408) 924-4706.