

### Founding

The Northern California chapter of the MLA was founded in 1946, and held its first meeting at San Francisco Public Library early in 1947; before then, all of California formed a single chapter.

By August 1949, the MLA/NCC had become "a group of music librarians and interested private individuals who not only devote one afternoon or evening a month to general chapter meetings, but who frequently meet at other times as committees or informal groups to discuss projects and problems of Northern California music libraries." Since its founding, it had grown from the original sixteen MLA members who lived "north of Fresno" to over fifty.

The original officers were Jessica Fredricks (SFPL), Chair, and Mary Kathleen Moore (Music Librarian, KNBC), Secretary.

### Activities

- . Started a survey of music resources in the S.F. Bay Area.
- . Compiled several bibliographies
- . Issued a newsletter (see below)
- . Formed a committee to study shared record cataloging. In 1948 started regional file (housed at UCB) of phonorecord catalog cards in which any library could deposit copies of main-entry cards.
- . Published a biographical dictionary of contemporary composers from Northern California.
- . Prepared a list of music periodicals and sent it to 21 Northern California libraries, as basis for a union list. Union List published in 1953.
- . Considered publishing union list of collected editions of music not in Anna Harriet Heyer's *Checklist of Publication of Music*.
- . Presented Institute (see below)
- . Published brief manual for cataloging sound recordings.

### Meetings

"The monthly [!] meetings generally consist of a short business session followed by a program for which there have been lectures, music, demonstrations of equipment, book reviews, and discussions of music library techniques."--J. Fredricks, Aug. 1949.

In late 1951, Executive Committee decided to alternate "program" meetings (guest speakers, performers, etc.) with "project" meetings for committee work, business, etc. "This would help us com-

plete some of our projected bibliographical publications, union lists, the biographical dictionary, etc."

In Feb. 1952, decided to reduce number of meetings to four a year, to give more time to committee work.

### Topics of early meetings:

Jan 1948, SFPL: Earl Walker demonstrated "Recording and reproducing equipment: phonographs, wire recorders, tape recorders, and other devices." First of two meetings devoted to recording equipment.

Feb 1948, UC Berkeley Music Department Library ("the Music Department Building is a small frame structure somewhat rustic in appearance located just inside the gate at the corner of Dana and Alston Streets"): symposium on record cataloging, with Merle ("Bart") Bartlett (then at UCB's Bancroft Lib.), Maude Coleman (San Jose State), Ruth Krenz (Oakland Public), Harriet Nicewonger (UCB). This was continued at the next meeting.

March 1948, Oakland P.L. ("directly opposite the entrance to the Ice Rink"): rest of symposium on cataloging sound recordings. "Bring your catalog cards along." Discussion of handling of unbound sheet music.

April 1948, SFPL: early American sheet music.

Early May 1948, Langley Porter Clinic in S.F.: Joint meeting with Medical Library group on music therapy.

Late May 1948, at Mills College (75c for lunch): devoted to committee reports and other business matters. Included piano recital by Betty Holman Young.

August 1948, Oakland P.L.: special meeting to plan for Institute (see below).

September 1948, UCB: Report on plans for Institute; report by Ed Colby on MLA national meeting in Atlantic City.

Oct. 1948, SFPL: final planning for Institute. No November meeting.

Dec 1948, Mills College: Nathan Van Patten (Prof. of Bibliography and Curator of Memorial Library of Music, Stanford), on "problems of cataloging rare music."

Jan. 1949, home of Earl Walker, S.F.: demonstration of sound equipment.

Feb. 1949, SFPL: discussion of MLA/NCC's participation in MLA national meeting to be held in S.F. in January 1950. Individual committee meetings.

Mar. 1949, home of C.R. and Harriet Nicewonger, Berkeley: musical evening, with Putnam Aldridge at the harpsichord, Vincent Duckles playing baroque organ, Norman Mealy conducting an informal chorus. Works of Bach, Sweelinck, Gibbons, and Farnaby, and poems read by Ed Colby.

April 1949, Oakland Public Museum, "a converted private residence standing on the southwest shore of Lake Merritt." Included Ed Colby speaking on Chinese instruments, a tour of the museum's collection of exotic instruments, and appropriate refreshments of Chinese tea and rice cakes.

May 1949, Music Library, Stanford University: R. C. Swank, Director of the Stanford U. Libs. and Chair of the audio-Visual Aids Committee of the ALA, speaking on "Audio-Visual Materials in Libraries" and focussing on the unique Audio-Visual Dept. at the Univ. of Oregon.

June 1949, SFPL: final business meeting of year. Jessica Fredricks was in charge of a "White Elephant" rummage sale to benefit the chapter. Norman Mealy auctioned off the "more desirable items."

Oct. 1949, held at the "new music library" at UCB: Reports on meetings, tour of library.

Nov. 1949, San Jose State College Library: progress report on plans for national MLA convention; local speakers reported on their musical summer in Europe.

Dec. 1949, College of the Holy Names: Sr. Josepha Mary spoke about and played recordings of medieval Catholic music. Dr. Van Patten displayed and discussed treasures of early church music from Stanford Library.

Mar. 1950, UCB: Reorganization of standing committees; discussion of objectives chapter "should like to see carried out in the national organization under Ed Colby's leadership."

Apr. 1950: tour of S.F. Opera House; discussion of orchestral librarianship by Alma Haug, Librarian of S.F. Symphony Orchestra.

May 1950, Stanford: Symposium on practical music library problems (administration, collection building, housing and equipment, etc.). Marguerite Figueroid (S.F. State College) described plans for College's new arts and music library. Margaret McDaniel (San Jose State) and Ed Colby discussed problems and achievements.

August 1950, at the Nicewongers': a going-away dinner for the Duckleses (VHD had a Fulbright to England), with much music-making.

October 1950, SFPL: Ed Colby reported on the MLA national meeting; news of VHD in England.

November 1950, UCB: Margaret Lyon reported on her trip to European libraries; more news of VHD in England. Planning of farewell dinner for Jessica Fredricks, who was retiring.

Jan. 1951, SFPL: Ed Colby reported on National Music Council meeting in New York and on MTNA, AMS, and MLA meetings in Washington. All members were sent application blanks for civil service exam to fill Jessica Fredricks' position.

Feb. 1951, Stanford: Maude Coleman discussed proposed condensed LC classification scheme. Putnam Aldridge spoke on ornamentation in Bach, illustrating at the keyboard. Nathan Van Patten described *The Catalog of the Memorial Library of Music at Stanford*, about to be published.

Mar. 1951, Oakland P.L.: lunch at Zerikotes, overlooking Lake Merritt; chapter hired a launch for a ride on the lake (15c each). Tour of new library; committee reports.

April 1951, UCB: Peter Abraham, Berkeley PhD student, gave talk on "Music of the California Indians," illustrated with wire recordings he had made in the field.

May 1951, San Jose: Lunch (chicken pie, fruit salad, ice-cream cake). Discussion by Esther Shephard of her libretto for *The Cowherd and the Sky Maiden* for an opera by John Verrall. Recital by pianist Thomas Ryan.

Nov. 1951, UCB: Devoted to committee work.

Dec. 1951, Nicewongers' house: social meeting with music.

Feb. 1952, SFPL: Committee reports.

Nov. 1952, Stanford: Talked about resuming *Bulletin*.

Jan. 1953, San Jose State: tour of new music building led by Lyle Downey, Chairman of the Music Dept.; Joyce Backus, Librarian of the Music Dept, discussed plans for new wing of library.

Mar. 1953, Stanford: Dinner meeting after an audio-visual workshop presented by the CLA and UCB's library school.

June 1953: informal meeting at the Nicewongers' on the eve of their departure for England. Union List of Music Periodicals had just been distributed.

#### Joint meetings:

Participated in the ALA/MLA conference held in S.F., June 1947, exhibiting materials on "Music in San Francisco" and presenting programs and a

recorded concert of California music. Forty-six MLA members were present. Manfred Bukofzer spoke on "Forms and functions of the music library."

Gave a concert at district meeting of CLA in Santa Cruz, Oct. 1947.

SLA local chapter (at SFPL, Feb. 1948): "Music of the Far West," with David Earl McDaniel (not related to Margaret McDaniel) as coordinator. Included live performances of mission music, early California songs, forty-niner songs, and more recent California music.

First joint meeting of the Northern and Southern California chapters of the MLA (Santa Barbara P.L.), concurrently with CLA meeting, 8-9 Oct 1948. Lawrence Morton spoke on film music; Bart Bartlett and Earl Walker spoke on sound recordings.

Regional meeting of Pacific Coast chapters of the MLA in Vancouver, August 1949, concurrent with ALA regional meeting. Warren D. Allen (Stanford) spoke on "Coordination of MLA with MTNA and kindred organizations." Jessica Fredricks was presiding chair.

At the MTNA's 1949 summer meeting in S.F., Warren D. Allen chaired a panel on "The music department of the public, school, and college or university library in relation to the needs of music teachers." Among the panelists were Vincent Duckles [hereafter VHD], David Boyden, and Ed Colby.

Chapter invited to participate in Bach Festival at College of the Pacific, mid-Jan. 1950. Held luncheon meeting with guest speaker. Concurrent MENC meeting.

Joint meeting with CLA, June 1950.

Joint meeting with MLA/SCC, in conjunction with CLA, Oct. 1951 in S.F. VHD reported on proceedings of AIBM Conference in Paris and on music libraries of England and Ireland.

#### **Institute on Music Librarianship**

(Sponsored by University Extension's Department of Institutes, UCB's School of Librarianship, and the Northern California chapters of the MLA and AMS) October 29-30, 1948, UCB campus. Registration fee of \$3 included dinner. Some 300 people attended.

Originated with an idea of Harriet Nicewonger, who proposed it to VHD.

Purpose was "to promote the development of music libraries and music collections in general

libraries in Northern California, and to encourage the training of music librarians to organize and administer these libraries." For VHD's report, see the Nov. 1948 issue of the chapter newsletter.

#### **Speakers:**

Opening speech by J. Periam Danton (Dean of the UCB Lib School), on training of music librarians (should not be a function of library school). At final dinner meeting, with Jessica Fredricks, toastmistress: Ed Colby, on the MLA, and Alfred Frankenstein (art and music critic, *SF Chronicle*), on "Social and economic influences in American musical life."

#### **Panels:**

*Organization and administration*, led by Nancy Bonnin, with Ed Colby on public libraries, VHD on academic libraries, and Margaret McDaniel (San Jose P.L.) discussing the place of the music branch within the larger library system).

*Music reference work*, led by Edith Coulter, with panelists Manfred Bukofzer and Ed Colby speaking from scholar's and reference librarian's point of view.

*Cataloging and classification*: survey of problems of descriptive cataloging, by Otilia Anderson, Asst. Head of UCB Library's Cat Dept.; music subject headings, by Harriet Nicewonger; relation of music subject headings to music catalogs, by "Alice" [Ethelyn?] Markley, UCB School of Librarianship; difficulties of Dewey Classification applied to music, by Richard Rafael, SFPL; list of reference tools for music catalogers, by Ida Agruss, UCB Order Dept.; revisions proposed in new MLA Code for Cataloging Music, by Virginia Cunningham, LC.

*Sound recordings*, Chair, Bart Bartlett; acquisition and processing, by Maude Coleman; record cataloging, by Virginia Cunningham; record circulation, by Pauline Ray (Alameda P.L.); standards in sound recording equipment, by W.R. Aiken, sound engineer.

Ed Colby wrote afterward, "There persists a definite feeling of achievement. What was embarked upon as an experiment was consummated a success."

#### **Members**

By mid-1949, chapter included representatives from UCB (Music Library, Main Library, and Music Department), Stanford (Music Library and Music Department), San Jose State College (Arts Library), Humboldt State College, College of No-

tre Dame (Belmont), Dominican College, San Mateo Junior College, Mills College, Fresno State College, College of the Holy Names, San Francisco State College; Alameda Free P.L., Oakland P.L., San Mateo P.L., SFPL, Richmond P.L., Santa Cruz P.L., San Jose P.L.; San Francisco Symphony Library; Langley Porter Clinic, S.F.; and KNBC Music Library.

In 1950, J. Fredricks suggested that two honorary memberships in chapter be given to library school students.

### Financial

In 1948, "many members" had neglected to pay the \$2 annual chapter dues, working a "hardship on those members who did pay," according to Margaret Lyon in the May 1949 issue of the newsletter. Next month's issue noted that "contributions from more than half the members are still outstanding." Some members felt that the \$4.50 they paid the national MLA was enough, she said, explaining why it wasn't.

In 1951, members were assessed an additional 25c for refreshments.

Total proceeds of first rummage sale: \$78.78. In May 1950, chapter decided to hold annual auctions. Jessica Fredricks brought items from Mexico for a 1952 auction, raising \$200, to be used for publication of the biographical dictionary.

### Officers and committees

(descriptive quotes are from Aug. 1949 *Bulletin*):

Chair: Ed Colby (1949); VHD (to Oct. 1950); Harriet Nicewonger (Oct. 1950-); Bart Bartlett (to Nov. 1952); Maude Coleman (1953).

Secretary (later Secretary/Treasurer, then Treasurer): Margaret Lyon (Mills College). Margaret Hewett [Hewitt?] (cataloger, UCB Main Library) became Secretary in mid-1949, resigning in May 1951. Grace London (1951-); Margaret McDaniel (1953-).

Treasurer: Margaret Lyon; Earl Walker (1950-52); Grace London (1953-).

Executive Committee [also called Executive Board] "has formulated and recommended to the chapter many of its guiding policies, and has planned programs for the monthly meetings after dissolution of the Program Committee."

### Committee Chairs:

Membership and Public Relations: Harriet Nicewonger (1948); Mary Kathleen Moore (1949-).

Program Committee: Vincent Duckles (to 1949?).

Publications: D.E. McDaniel (San Jose); later VHD. "Responsible for the policies affecting the monthly *Bulletin*."

Nominating: Helen Nagle (SFPL); Ed Colby (1951).

Sound Recording and Reproduction: Bart Bartlett (1948); Earl Walker (1949-); "has kept the chapter posted on the rapidly changing developments in the audio-visual field."

Bibliography: Vincent Duckles; "has prepared for publication the Proceedings of the Institute in Music Librarianship." (Selected papers were issued in the June 1949 Supplement to *Notes*. "The remainder of the papers may be published at a later date.")

Cataloging: Bart Bartlett (1949-); "is making substantial progress in the formulation of a style manual for music catalogers." In 1950, checked Victor Numerical Catalogs for dates of record issues, to simplify verification.

Resources: Jessica Fredricks and Harriet Nicewonger, later Maude Coleman. Committee "already well on its way toward publication of a survey of the music resources of Northern California." (See note above about union list.) Also made list of music periodicals that had ceased publication, and checklist of "less common" reference books. Circulated Heyer list for checking "so that librarians may know what is available in this area." Surveyed location of printed music, record collections, and music manuscripts in Northern California libraries.

### Newsletter

*Bulletin / Northern California Chapter, Music Library Association*; in April 1948, became *Notes for Northern California Music Libraries*, reverting to original name in March 1949 because of possible confusion with MLA *Notes*. Renamed *News Letter* for a single issue, April 1950.

Founded Jan. 1948. Ceased Aug. 1953.

Originally small format (5 1/2 x 8 1/2); mimeographed, with occasional illustrations or tipped-in plates. In April 1950, moved to 8 1/2 x 11 format, still mimeographed. Issued 10 x year or monthly, Jan. 1948-Dec. 1951. Not published in 1952.

Monthly (irreg.) Jan.-Apr. 1953. New series, Aug. 1953 (one issue only), in 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 format. Two issues a year were sent to "all music libraries, institutions, and individuals."

Editors, David E. McDaniel (Jan-June 1948, March 1949-May 1950, March-April 1953); Ed Colby (Acting Editor, Oct. 1948-Feb. 1949); Margaret McDaniel, May 1950-1951. Not published during 1952. Editorial Board (1952): James Cleghorn, Ed Colby, Mary Kathleen Moore, Margaret McDaniel. Evidently some dissatisfaction with the newsletter in early 1953; editor resigned. James Cleghorn edited v.1, no. 1 (and the only issue) of the "new series," August 1953.

In May 1948, the publication committee decided that newsletter should include practical articles; editorial page to which suggestions might be sent; announcement of preceding program and report on past program; personal items; "Californiana."

In Feb. 1949, decided to have simpler monthly bulletin, with announcements of coming meetings, reports of past meetings, committee reports, news of coming activities, news of members, and "miscellaneous items." Began to have regular news of local music libraries. Planned to have special issues with articles twice a year.

#### Some sample articles:

Anon. article on Emma Nevada, the "Comstock Nightingale."

Jessica Fredricks on her early days as a music librarian.

J.F. on "Music publishing in California, 1850-1860."

Practical suggestions on handling of phonograph records (anon.).

Earl Walker on preservation of "disc records." (Transfer them to wire, film, or tape. "No more bulky albums! No more cracked, scratched, raspy, or broken recordings!") Later, Walker responded to a question about copyright infringement raised in *MLA Notes*.

VHD's report on the Gamble ms.

Broad questions by Constance Hoover (librarian at Langley Porter Clinic) on relation of music

librarianship to the profession as a whole, on training, on cooperative cataloging.

Mary Kathleen Moore on music and radio: the Music Library at the KNBC studios in S.F.; recordings used for background music in radio dramas (two articles).

Margaret Lyon on the function of libraries in musical life of the communities they serve. "Record collections encourage only a passive participation in music. Much more important would be a collection of scores of popular and classical music, and good books on music theory."

Margaret Tilly on music therapy, with case histories. (Abridgement of talk she gave at May 1948 meeting.) D.E. McDaniel compiled a bibliography on music therapy as a supplement.

August 1949 issue was devoted to the Vancouver and MTNA meetings; included an article by John Ray, president of the S.F. branch of the MTNA, on "The music teacher and the public library"; a brief history of the chapter, by Jessica Fredricks and Ed Colby; and John Edmunds's description of SFPL's Campion Library of Songs.

January 1950 "Convention Issue" was devoted to the MLA Midwinter Conference in S.F. Contained a facsimile of a Bach autograph ms. held by the Stanford U. Lib, "Notes of early California music" by J. Fredricks, "Music at the University of Santa Clara" by Michael Buckley, and descriptions of music materials in various Northern California libraries.

December 1950 "Convention Issue" in conjunction with MLA midwinter conference (Washington, DC). Articles by Margaret Lyons ("Visiting some English libraries") and VHD ("Report from England"); reports from various Northern California music libraries, including S.F. City College, Stockton P.L., Placer College in Auburn, and Monterey Peninsula College.

"Postage stamps with music motifs" (anon.)

"Library Music Services," by Lloyd Engelbrecht.

"How conventional is my entry," by Lee Windreich.

#### Relation to national MLA

In March 1948, past MLA president Dorothy Tilly and current president Scott Goldthwaite wrote to say that the MLA board had approved of the chapter's *Bulletin*. MLA/NCC told its members, "We are encouraged to know that our publication now has official sanction."

Manfred Bukofzer was elected member-at-large of MLA board in 1948. His address before the national MLA (June 1947, S.F.) was published in the March 1948 supplement to *Notes*. Maude Coleman's article was published in the same issue.

Beginning with its June 1948 issue, the newsletter started publishing brief information on MLA.

Various members of MLA/NCC published articles and reviews in *Notes*. (See March 1949 issue, with a bibliography by Jessica Fredricks, who was Chair of MLA's Committee on Periodicals, and reviews by VHD and D.E. McDaniel.)

Some chapter members attended national meetings: Ed Colby went to the Atlantic City meeting, summer 1948; Jessica Fredricks was a "delegate" to the midwinter meeting in Chicago, 1948/49.

The Northern and Southern California chapters invited the national MLA to meet in S.F., Jan. 27-29, 1950. The Northern California chapter was responsible for list of hotels, musical programs, non-commercial exhibits, suggestions for speakers. Among attendees were Harold Spivacke and Minnie Elmer from LC. Among topics discussed were US responsibility in proposed Anglo-American cataloging rules, problems of cataloging music manuscripts, and MLA's membership in IAML. See the March 1950 *Bulletin* for a report.

### People

Newsletter listed new members, social notes (including retirements, marriages, illnesses, new jobs, and musical activities: "Margaret Tilly appeared recently as pianist with members of the Griller Quartet," "Vincent Duckles has the distinction of being the first member of the NCC to be televised").

Ed Colby was appointed music librarian "in the Stanford Music Department" in May 1949. In 1950, he was elected President of national MLA.

In September 1949, members of MLA/NCC discussed and illustrated music from the Campion

Society's collection on Berkeley's radio station, KRE. Co-directors Leonard Ralston and John Edmunds spoke, as did Jessica Fredricks and Earl Walker ("who hopes to record all the worthwhile material in the library").

VHD and Harriet Nicewonger produced their *Guide to Reference Materials on Music*, published in the UC Syllabus Series; cost 70c. Reviewed by Maude Coleman in Dec. 1949 *Bulletin*: "The excellence of the syllabus makes it usable to librarians as a first purchase list. [Its] scope insures the extension of its usefulness beyond the library to the classroom, seminar, and in private study."

Earl Walker (who had been giving recorded concerts at SFPL for years) founded non-profit Music Library Recordings in 1950. Records included pianist Bernhard Abramowitsch playing Sessions, organist Ludwig Altman, California String Quartet playing Roger Nixon, works by Antheil and Ellis Kohs. Records were pressed by Fantasy Records in Berkeley.

While on a Fulbright grant to England (1950/51), VHD was appointed MLA representative to the UNESCO conference on bibliography in Paris.

James Cleghorn became new head of SFPL's music department in fall 1951.

Bart Bartlett and Minnie Elmer exchanged jobs for a year. Bart went to the Music Section of the Copyright Cataloging Division at LC, and Minnie (Chief Revisor of that section) replaced him as record cataloger at UCB.

John Edmunds, founder of the Campion Festivals, left SFPL to work on a library degree at Columbia in 1953.

### Chapter history

Music Dept. of SFPL became a central depository for MLA/NCC materials in mid-1949.

Jessica Fredricks wrote article on chapter's history in August 1949 issue of the *Bulletin*.