

Finding Aid created with *Describing Archives: A Content Standard, 2nd Edition*

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository

Special Collections in Performing Arts, Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

Creator

Music Library Association

Title

Music Library Association Archives

Date

1931 – 2017 [ongoing]

Extent

Approximately 300 linear feet of paper records; 5GB of digital materials; sound recordings

Languages

English with additional documents in French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Preferred Citation

Music Library Association Archives, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENTS

The Music Library Association Archives contains the official records of the Music Library Association (MLA) that document the history, activities, and publications of the organization since its founding in 1931. MLA is the professional association for music libraries and librarianship in the United States with the mission to provide a professional forum for librarians, archivists, and others who support and preserve musical heritage. Formats in the records include manuscripts, financial ledgers, printed publications, sound recordings, oral histories, photographs, scrapbooks, microfilm, realia, born-digital files, musical scores, and artwork. The collection also contains records of select current and former regional chapters, including the Atlantic, Greater New York, Mountain-Plains, and New England Chapters. Records of the California, Midwest, New York State-Ontario, Pacific Northwest, Southeast, and Texas Chapters are housed in repositories within their geographic areas.

COLLECTION ARRANGEMENT

The Music Library Association Archives is arranged in eight record groups with series and sub-series: I. Board of Directors and Executive Committee; II. Special Officers and Other Elected Officials; III. Committees; IV. Oral Histories; V. National Meetings and Conventions; VI. *Notes*; VII. Regional Chapters; VIII. MLA Series and Publications.

Collection Arrangement Note

With multiple appraisal and re-appraisal projects from 2012 – 2017, arrangement has been continually revised in order to best reflect original sources of creation. The initial proposed arrangement contained 11 record groups.

COLLECTION RECORD GROUP AND SERIES OUTLINE

Record Group I. Board of Directors and Executive Committee

- Series 1. President
- Series 2. Vice-President and President-Elect
- Series 3. Secretary, Executive Secretary, and Recording Secretary
- Series 4. Treasurer
- Series 5. Secretary-Treasurer and Treasurer-Executive Secretary
- Series 6. Meeting Minutes
- Series 7. Annual Reports
- Series 8. Board Policies, Handbooks, and Related Documents
- Series 9. Constitution, By-Laws, and Legal Documents

Record Group II. Special Officers and Other Elected Officials

- Series 1. Archivist
- Series 2. Development Officer
- Series 3. Members-at-Large
- Series 4. Publicity Officers
- Series 5. Placement Officer
- Series 6. Web Manager
- Series 7. Fiscal Officer
- Series 8. Publicity Officer
- Series 9. Administrative Officer

Record Group III. Committees

- Series 1. Standing Committees and Subcommittees
- Series 2. Special Committees and Subcommittees
- Series 3. Awards Committees
- Series 4. Joint Committees
- Series 5. Round Tables
- Series 6. Task Forces
- Series 7. Search Committees
- Series 8. Liaisons to Other Organizations
- Series 9. User Groups

Record Group IV. Oral Histories

Record Group V. National Meetings and Conventions

- Series 1. Program Drafts and Planning Materials
- Series 2. Final Programs and Other Distributed Materials
- Series 3. Convention Manager and Assistant Convention Manager
- Series 4. Ephemera and Realia

Record Group VI. *Notes*

- Series 1. Correspondence and Subject Files
- Series 2. Editorial Staff Records
- Series 3. Drafts and Proofs
 - Sub-Series 1: *Notes*, First and Second Series
 - Sub-Series 2: Installment Articles
 - Sub-Series 3: *Notes Supplement for Members*
 - Sub-Series 4: *Index to Notes, Second Series*
 - Sub-Series 5: *Record Ratings*
- Series 4. Final Publications
 - Sub-Series 1: *Notes*, First Series
 - Sub-Series 2: *Index to Notes, First and Second Series*
 - Sub-Series 3: *Notes Supplement for Members*
 - Sub-Series 4: *Notes, Second Series*
- Series 5. Business Office
- Series 6. Advertising Manager
- Series 7. Ephemera, Realia, and Publicity Materials

Record Group VII. Regional Chapters

- Series 1. Washington-Baltimore / Chesapeake
- Series 2. Pennsylvania
- Series 3. Atlantic
- Series 4. Boston-Cambridge / New England
- Series 5. Greater New York
- Series 6. Mountain-Plains

Record Group VIII. MLA Publications and Series

- Series 1: Basic Manual Series
- Series 2: Index and Bibliography Series
- Series 3: Technical Reports
- Series 4: Music Cataloguing Bulletin
- Series 5: Newsletter

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use and Access Restrictions

Accession 94-94-MLA requires permission from Don L. Roberts. All other MLA records have no restrictions.

Custodial History

The first repository of the MLA Archives was the Lincoln Center Library of the Juilliard School in New York, NY from 1967 – 1974. Upon the recommendation of Edward N. Waters in 1973, the Library of Congress Music Division became the repository for the MLA Archives in 1974. MLA's agreement with the Library of Congress was limited to collection storage. In 1982 Bruce Wilson, Curator of Special Collections in Music (SCIM) at the University of Maryland, offered his repository to the MLA Board for the archives. The Library of Congress transferred the MLA Archives to SCIM in 1982; the name of this repository changed to Special Collections in Performing Arts (SCPA) in 1996. Transfers of MLA chapter records to local repositories took place from 2015 – 2017 to the California, Midwest, New York State-Ontario, Pacific Northwest, Southeast, and Texas chapters. SCPA is the regional repository for records of the Atlantic Chapter and chapters that have merged to form the Atlantic Chapter. SCPA will house records of the Greater New York, Mountain-Plains, and New England chapters until local repositories are established.

Jane P. Franck served as the first Archivist of MLA from 1967 – 1977. Initial records accrual efforts were led by Franck and MLA Recording Secretary Melva Peterson. After the collection transfer from the Library of Congress to the University of Maryland, the Curators of SCIM/SCPA from 1982 – 2006 (Bruce Wilson, 1982 – 1995 and Bonnie Jo Dopp, 1996 – 2006) were the chairs of the Joint Committee on the MLA Archives and stewards of the MLA Archives; the committee consisted of four representatives from the university and four representatives from MLA. A revised 2010 gift agreement between the University of Maryland and MLA removed the stipulation that such a Joint Committee was required. Subsequently, at the recommendation to the MLA Archives Committee by the Curator, Vincent Novara, MLA appointed in 2012 an official Archivist for the association. This Special Officer is charged to liaise with SCPA, collaborate with the curator on policy and practice, advise on collection maintenance, encourage and stimulate record transfers to the Archives, and collaborate on grant applications. Sandy Rodriguez served as MLA Archivist from 2013 – 2017 followed by Melissa E. Wertheimer in February 2017.

Processing Information

Records accessioned from MLA members since 1982 are minimally processed. Records transferred from the Library of Congress have been minimally processed with original enclosures maintained except when degraded. Multiple rounds of appraisal were performed from 2012 – 2016. From 2015 – 2017, Melissa E. Wertheimer continued re-appraisal, recommended records for transfer and deaccession, began initial processing and rehousing, revised the collection arrangement, and authored the collection finding aid. Electronic records will be incorporated beginning in 2017-2018.

RELATED MATERIALS

Dena J. Epstein Papers, , Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Charles Warren Fox Papers, Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections, Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY

Scott Goldthwaite Papers, University of Illinois Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

Richard S. Hill Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

International Association of Music Libraries, US-Branch, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Otto Kinkeldey Papers, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, New York, NY

Irving Lowens Collection, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Eva J. O'Meara Papers, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Harold Spivacke Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Edward and Clara Steuermann Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Connecting the Dots: Henry and Sidney Cowell Writings in the Music Library Association Archives. Online exhibition curated by Melissa E. Wertheimer, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. <http://www.lib.umd.edu/mla-cowells>

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Personal Names

Colby, Edward E. (Edward Eugene)
Cunningham, Virginia Meeks, 1910 – 1996
Dickinson, George Sherman, 1888 – 1964
Epstein, Dena J., 1916 – 2013
Goldthwaite, Wilburn Scott, 1901 – 1981
Hill, Richard S. (Richard Synyer), 1901 – 1961
Kinkeldey, Otto, 1878 – 1966
Lichtenwanger, William, 1915 – 2000
Lowens, Irving, 1916 – 1983
Smith, Carleton Sprague, 1905 – 1994
Spivacke, Harold, 1904 – 1977
Strunk, W. Oliver (William Oliver), 1901 – 1980
Waters, Edward N. (Edward Neighbor), 1906 – 1991

Corporate Names

International Association of Music Libraries (IAML)
International Association of Music Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centres
Joint Committee for the MLA Archives
Music Library Association (MLA; M.L.A.)
Music Library Association. Atlantic Chapter
Music Library Association. Greater New York Chapter
Music Library Association. New England Chapter
Music Library Association. Pacific Northwest Chapter
Music Library Association. Pennsylvania Chapter.
Music Library Association. Southwest Chapter

Subjects

Composition (Music)
Music—History and criticism
Music—Publishing
Music librarianship
Music libraries
Music teachers
Music trade

HISTORICAL NOTE

The first meeting of the Music Library Association took place at Yale University in New Haven, CT, from 22 – 24 June 1931. Carleton Sprague Smith of the New York Public Library initiated this meeting by contacting music librarian colleagues across the country. These like-minded professionals joined together to form their own organization in order to assert their specialized needs as music librarians, such as music cataloging, that were met neither academically nor professionally in existing organizations like the American Library Association (ALA), the Special Libraries Association (SLA), or the American Musicological Society (AMS). The 19 charter members at this 1931 meeting were leading music librarians at public and academic libraries. The first elected officers were: President, Otto Kinkeldey of Cornell University; Vice-President, Eva Judd O'Meara of Yale University; Secretary, Barbara Duncan of the Eastman School of Music; Treasurer, Carleton Sprague Smith of the New York Public Library; and Officer-at-Large, W. Oliver Strunk of the Library of Congress. MLA has collaborated with other organizations on scholarly and cultural initiatives since 1931, including: AMS; ALA; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Music Educators' National Convention (MENC); the National Music Council; and the International Association for Music Libraries (IAML). MLA became the official United States branch of IAML on 1 July 2011.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradley, Carol June. "The Music Library Association: The Founding Generation and its Work." *Notes* 37, no. 4 (June 1981): 763 – 822.

Bradley, Carol June. "Edward N. Waters: Notes of a Career." *Notes* 50, no. 2 (December 1993): 485 – 501.

Hill, Richard S., ed. *Notes, Second Series*. Music Library Association, 1943 – 1960.

Krummel, Donald W. "The Second Twenty Volumes of *Notes*: A Retrospective Re-Cast." *Notes* 41, no. 1 (September 1984): 7 – 25.

Krummel, Donald W. "Twenty Years of *Notes* – A Retrospect." *Notes* 21, no. 1-2 (Winter 1963 – Spring 1964): 56 – 82.

Lichtenwanger, William. "When *Notes* was Young, 1945 – 1960." *Notes* 39, no. 1 (September 1982): 7 – 30.

Music Library Association website. Accessed 1 November 2015 – 30 August 2016. www.musiclibraryassoc.org.

Notes Supplement for Members. Music Library Association, 1947 – 1964.

O'Meara, Eva J., ed. *Notes, First Series*. Music Library Association, 1934 – 1942.

Weichlein, William J. "Music Library Association." *Pan Pipes of Sigma Alpha Iota* 69, no. 1 (November 1976): 3.