

Music Library Association



A Brief History

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MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MIDWEST CHAPTER

A Brief History

The World Book defines the Midwestern States as Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Midwest Chapter of MLA has included, in addition, Kentucky, and when desired by contiguous-state members, New Mexico (Don Roberts in 1963) and Pennsylvania (Irene Millen in 1962).

A tremendous area--765,530 square miles--nearly a fifth of the area of the United States--its size has proved both its strength and, some think, its weakness. Several times members, feeling the sting of travel costs--sometimes reimbursed by their institutions, sometimes not--and the burden of their professional responsibilities at home, have considered splitting into east-of- and west-of-the Mississippi units (n.b. Jack L. Ralston's Chapter Chairman's report in the Newsletter no. 13, June, 1974). The possibility of division was considered in a discussion chaired by Lenore Coral at the October 1976 business meeting. (Pro: Katie Holum, leader; Con: Don Roberts) No conclusion.

Scott Goldthwaite, University of Chicago, polling the Midwest membership of MLA in 1941, announced that 28 of the then 55 members voted for a single Midwest Chapter (Notes, 1st ser., No. 12, p. 11-15. "Report of the Committee on Regional Organization"). The Midwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society resisted--to no avail--the insistence of the parent organization to split its area. Fortunately that kind of pressure from the top has not developed in MLA.

Efforts to create state chapters to supplement or replace the large unit are in the experimental stage. Olga Buth, Chairman of the Midwest Chapter in 1967-69, pushed hard for "grass roots" organization, setting up chairmen in each state to lead the effort to give service in music to local libraries having no music specialist.

At the personal level, the Midwest Chapter has persisted because of the staying qualities of individual music librarians. The 1955 meeting at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Jay Allen, Chairman, registered Edna Lou Christopher (Univ. of Chicago), Rita Benton (State Univ. of Iowa), George Hansen (Olivet College, Mich.), Albert Luper (State Univ. of Iowa), Desiree De Charms (Roosevelt College, Chicago), Mary Lou Little (Milwaukee Public Library), Susan Watts (Univ. of Mich.). Present at East Lansing in May, 1957 were Jay Allen, Ada Berkey (Western Mich. State), Lauralee Campbell (Eastern Mich.), Jack Chitwood (Indianapolis Public), Lawrence Brown (Detroit

Public), Betty Olmsted (Ohio State), Bill Shank (Roosevelt College), Susan Watts, and Gladys Wilson (Minneapolis Public). The Washington University hostess Betty Ringger (Krause) on May 10, 1959 welcomed Edna Christopher, Catherine Kilcoyne (Cincinnati Public), Marion Korda (Univ. of Louisville), Forrest Alter (Flint Public), Mr. and Mrs. Paul Breed (Desiree De Charms, Detroit Public), Gordon and Sally Stevenson (Kansas City Public and Kansas State College), Bill Shank, Bill Weichlein (Univ. of Mich.) and Betty Olmsted (Oberlin). In 1975 at Columbus, Ohio, to see Olga Buth's greatly expanded quarters for Ohio State's Music Library there were, from the 50s: Ada Berkey, Edna Christopher, Marion Korda, Betty Krause, Mary Lou Little, Betty Olmsted, Bill Weichlein; from the 60s: Marjorie Adkins, Olga Buth, Dena Epstein, Jean Geil, Robert Johnson, Bill McClellan, Guy Marco, Glenn Patton, Sharon Paugh-Ferris, Don Phillips, Martha Powell, Jack Ralston, Don Roberts, Charlie Simpson, Helene Stern, Clara Steuermann and Mary Wilcox.

It was only natural that the Midwest Chapter, as indeed the national MLA, grew up alongside the AMS, if not within its confines. The acknowledge "father of us all," Otto Kinkeldey, had been musicologist-music librarian at Cornell. Musicologist Hans Lenneberg is Music Librarian of the Univ. of Chicago; Musicologist Rita Benton is Music Librarian of Univ. of Iowa; Keith Mixter, formerly Music Librarian at the University of North Carolina, is now a musicologist at Ohio State. Our Chairman, Lenore Coral, is also a scholar-librarian. Many universities and colleges currently seek librarians with at least a Master's Degree in Musicology. Though the two professions are necessarily closely related, and though librarianship gains much of its direction from musicology, the tendency was for the AMS, with its pattern of sessions of research papers, to "swamp" any attempt at joint meetings. There have been exceptions: at the State University of Iowa in April, 1953, subjects of common interest united the groups--an address by Paul Henry Lang, "Music and Words;" a special demonstration of 3-dimensional recording; an exhibit from the collections of the Library of Congress, the University of Illinois, Newberry Library, and the Sibley Library at Eastman. Similarly, at Indiana University, Ethel Lyman, Music Librarian, in 1954, featured a display of rare books belonging to the library and to Dr. Paul Nettl; joint sessions which included, in addition to research papers, Dr. Nettl speaking on "The experiences of a private collector," the University Librarian's "European experiences of a librarian," Scott Goldthwaite's remarks about "Past and present curricula for the music librarian at the University of Chicago," Desiree de Charms' "Use of

recordings by students in a college library," Vera Flandorf's "Music periodicals published in the U.S.," and Wallace Look (Ohio State) discussing "Classification and cataloging of scores in the U.S.;" and for visiting firemen curious to see how things are done at other places, a tour--the IU auditorium.

Politically, chapters are outcroppings of the national organization. Members of the parent group hailing from the same general area seek contact with those in their area. The chapter is the indigenous nucleus for cooperative ventures, union lists or catalogs. In the 60s Dominique De Lerna urged Big Ten universities to cite their unique tape recorded concerts; Dena Epstein (Univ. of Chicago) and Eldo Neufeld (Oberlin) attempted shared record cataloging; Jim Elrod (IU), Carol Bradley (SUNY at Buffalo) and Betty Olmsted exchanged score cataloging for a brief period; even Sally Rubenstein at Florida State sent cataloging--there being no Southeastern Chapter until the 70s. Most important has been David Fenske's Committee on Microforms, which has queried Midwest libraries to determine the extent of holdings and has sought foundation help for editing and printing the information. Don Roberts' interest in Special Collections has prompted special reports of holdings, notably the meeting at Iowa City in 1972.

At the November 1966 meetings in Kansas City, Mo., Prof. Ronald Coleman, Oberlin, sparked the interest of attendees in regional repositories for the works of Midwest university composers. Bill McClellan followed up in a letter to then Chapter Chairman Guy Marco, Head of the Library School at Kent State, which fosters courses in music librarianship, suggesting the feasibility of a journal to contain bibliographies of contemporary music. Might the Kent State University Press undertake such a publication?

The first complete minutes among the notebooks of chapter records--those of Jay Allen recording the May 8, 1955 meeting at Urbana, Ill.--reflect both the struggles of birth and the impulse toward communication and coordination in Allen P. Britton's (Univ. of Mich.) MLA Regional Music Committee statement: "Nothing to report." Then, "the advantage in archival organization is to centralize information in regard to collections. The previous information regarding the activities of the depository libraries is substantially correct as of today. I would be happy to circularize the libraries to obtain more recent information.... Perhaps Bruno Nettl, Wayne State Music Dept. in Detroit, would take over." It was decided to ask Bruno Nettl or someone else with a special interest in regional folk music to become chairman of the Regional Music Committee.

At the same meeting Jack Chitwood, Indianapolis Public Library, was commissioned to report to the "national headquarters" on chapter activities and business. Jack recommended more papers on library subjects in addition to discussion periods. Rita Benton, suggesting the possibility of catalog cards being issued with the University of Rochester Microcard publications of early music books and periodicals, theses and dissertations, was asked to follow through. It was decided to ask the Library of Congress to catalog "more important books and more varied record labels." Should there not be chapter representatives at national meetings?

Professional goals of the Midwest Chapter have emphasized service to "musically deprived areas." In a letter of Feb. 17, 1956, Jack Chitwood, 1955-57 Chapter Chairman, reporting on a called meeting Nov. 19, 1955 in Chicago, wrote to Charles Warren Fox, the national MLA president:

The MLA should contact the ALA and work out some cooperative plan whereby instruction and training in the handling of music (irrespective of its form of presentation) in those libraries not having trained personnel in music handling techniques, would be made available to those library units needing and desiring this training.

This is most applicable to smaller general libraries. A possible solution might be the formation of institutes or clinics in conjunction with state or smaller unit library conventions.

This Chapter hopes that some action can be taken on this resolution at the February (national) meeting and urges the suggested activity as a useful step toward reaching a larger audience."

Just fourteen months and an administration later, on Aug. 27, 1956, Ed Waters wrote Chitwood asking that the latter reconstruct his letter "giving in some detail what the Midwest Chapter had in mind, or what it, or you, thinks would be helpful in drawing up such a program, probably all-day, for the meeting in Urbana, and I should hate to ignore the suggestions or needs which may already have been advanced by some of our members." This exchange resulted in the heavily attended national meeting at the University of Illinois when presentations and discussions opened out, and from which, along with Virginia Cunningham's broad and comprehensive membership concern, a new energy and interest developed throughout the organization.

A map of the Midwest pinpointing known music library

concentrations accompanied a Newsletter Betty Olmsted sent out announcing the Spring meeting in 1959 in St. Louis. Sent to over 200 names on a list derived by sifting out institutional and individual members of MLA, the response was small but encouraging. As in other contexts, "wherever two or three are gathered together" ideas and concerns are shared and plans germinate.

The 8th Annual Festival of the University Composers Exchange Nov. 13-15, 1959, was the occasion of the joint meeting of the Midwest AMS and MLA at Valparaiso University. Beginning Thursday evening with Two Operas and A Divertissement, music by Robert Wykes, Irwin Sonnefield, Paul Schwartz, the following evening featured dance and music by Robert Crane and Robert Mueller. Thus surrounded by music, the first--AMS--session was followed by an MLA session at which Chapter Chairman Bill Shank introduced Bruno Nettl who gave a paper "Reference Tools for Ethnomusicology" with discussants Richard Waterman and Lloyd C. Engelbrecht, Univ. of Chicago Undergraduate Division. A third, AMS, session was followed by three more musical programs, providing perhaps the fullest musical fare of our history.

Enviably Bill Shank received a grant to pursue his enthusiasm--The Composer as Performer on Phonodiscs--in London and on the continent during the spring and summer of 1960. The newsletter he sent from Italy was lost in the mails. As a result, no fall meeting was planned, but a get-together of MLA members was urged for those attending the AMS meeting on Nov. 13 in Chicago. A "joint" meeting was held with the AMS in Carbondale Apr. 15-16, 1961.

Since IAML met in September, 1961, no Midwest meeting was scheduled for the fall, but Bill Weichlein, Chairman, 1961-63, was anxious to move, for as he once said in a letter to Desiree de Charms, "I still think there is a place for a chapter in the Midwest." With the cooperation of Bruno Nettl and Kurtz Myers a stimulating meeting was held at Wayne State University and the Detroit Public Library in the fall of 1962. Memorable was the Open House hosted by Florence Kretschmar, the MLA "hostess with the mostes" of the Music Index. Long may it reign!

Among Weichlein's concerns was the Midwest Chapter as service organization: a workable, viable, cooperating group. After attending the national MLA convention in Miami Beach, he returned to challenge members--Program Committee--to do something about public music librarians. This last in response to Gordon Stevenson's prodding--a reaction against overconcentration on academic music libraries. The program held in part in the handsome McGregor Memorial Conference Center included Olga Buth's "The promotion of ensemble music

in libraries," "Gifts and what to do with them," Catherine Kilcoyne; "Building a library collection," OSU's Human Kritzer; "The Cataloging of phonograph records," chaired by Thor Wood with participants Desiree de Charms (Univ. of Ill.), Donald Deitsch (OSU) and Barbara Penyak (Cleveland Public) "Documenting local music history in the public library" followed Don Leavitt's "State of the recorded sound collections in the Library of Congress," was chaired by Kurtz Myers of the Music and Drama Division of the Detroit Public Library, with four discussants including Lawrence Brown, also of DPL.

In 1963 Chairman Bruno Nettl asked Don Krummel and Guy Marco to serve with him as a Committee on Library Education. Could the Chapter cooperate with library schools and music departments in stimulating library orientation programs for music students, and by offering courses in music librarianship in midwest library schools? Guy made a survey of offerings at the graduate level: (1) what music titles were included in the general reference courses? (2) what courses in the catalogues of the American Association of Library School members contained music subject matter? He found that 33 library reference courses included Grove's Dictionary; 32, Thompson; 30, Darrell's Schirmer's Guide to Books on Music and Musicians; 29, Baker's; 28, Music Index; 27, Ewen's Living Musicians. Library schools including the greatest number of music titles in general reference courses were UCLA (294), Illinois (195), Michigan (151), Kent State (101), Univ. of Pittsburgh (87), McGill (84), Peabody (74), Univ. of Chicago (71). Six library schools had special music library and music bibliography courses--Colorado, Indiana, Kent, Michigan, North Carolina, and Western Reserve--in addition to music bibliography courses. Syracuse, Peabody, and Pratt headed the list of those spending time on music cataloging and classification within general courses, with 39, 37, and 30 hours respectively. Seven hours was the median time spent by the 28 schools answering the question. Music in the Library School thus became a fitting beginning for the first of the Midwest Chapter's special series Explorations in Music Librarianship, for which Guy was responsible.

Nettl also appointed a "Smaller Libraries" committee: Gordon Stevenson, Marjorie McConnell and Thor Wood. Jack Chitwood summarized their conclusion in a November, 1964 report recommending workshops, demonstration library projects, standards, revision or continuation of NASM's List of Books about Music, 1935-57; basic lists, interlibrary cooperation; introductory pamphlets for small libraries (since ALA lists did not include music); state library collections and services; and a survey. The fruits of this

committee's comprehensive suggestions resulted in positive, visible efforts in the months to follow.

The meeting at Louisville, where Marion Korda hosted the chapter in 1964 was memorable. In addition to excellent programs which included a panel discussion "Ethnomusicology and the Music Librarian" led by Frank Gillis and composed of Barbara Krader, Bruno Nettl, and Alexander Ringer; "Acquiring South American music," presented by Juan Orrego-Salas; a report on Australian music libraries by Desiree de Charms; a round table discussion, "The Midwest Chapter: Problems, Projects and Desiderata," a magnificent buffet flattered us into eating too much. At the luncheon when Conductor/Dean Robert Whitney spoke of the Louisville Orchestra's Commissioning series, he played the perfect host by giving us complimentary recordings of the Frank Martin Violin concerto. The author remembers especially the Southern Hospitality shown by Marion, who was waiting at the motel to drive latecomers to the recital in progress at Gardencourt.

"Guido" Marco--so Dominique de Lerma, head of IU's music library until 1972, addressed Guy, Head of Ohio Kent State University's School of Library Science until his appointment to head IC's Reference Division in 1976--as Chapter Chairman, 1965-67, pursued his aim of liaison with state library organizations. To contact each state library organization within the area and coordinate activities, Guy appointed Marion Korda in Kentucky, Gordon Stevenson in Missouri, Josephine Machus in Wisconsin, Bill McClellan in Illinois and Kent Hirst in Ohio. Specific projects were to include (1) a booklet listing basic collections of records, scores and books for small music departments in public or school libraries; (2) a collapsible "music corner" to encourage the acquisition and circulation of music materials. To this end basic lists were drawn up for planned distribution through the "corners;" indeed the corners would contain the titles listed. The hard realities of self- or other-interests, priorities, emphases and methods, engineering problems and costs, the politics and mechanics of inter-organizational efforts discouraged the advocates. Iowa and Illinois had programs which already included recordings; they felt they did not need music corners but welcomed lists of desirable basic recordings. Similarly, Wisconsin was interested in the lists but not travelling libraries. Margaret Willis, State Librarian in Kentucky, was willing to try a pilot project in Elizabethtown, south of Louisville, where the Librarian was musically oriented. Basic lists would also be of assistance to library regional systems having central processing.

From Iowa the State Traveling Library is "past the

demonstration stage in films, records and books. I would doubt the advisability of placing scores in what we call the small library....Scores might become a part of the State Library when there is space."

The November 1966 meeting in Kansas City with the Missouri State Library Association was the positive outcome of Guy's concern to work with state organizations. Other activities included Gordon Stevenson's plan to provide a booth containing music materials at ALA's summer meeting, in collaboration with G. Schirmer and Colombo, but a request for a Title VII grant was not approved. There was to be a chapter representative on the MLA national membership committee.

In a letter to colleague, Olga Buth summed up what many have experienced, when she wrote in the early fall of 1967: "Work has been rather hectic: just when I should be able to devote more time to professional work, I feel as though the roof is about to cave in....I sometimes wonder if I shall read a book again just to read." Temporary frustrations notwithstanding, Olga seems to find time and energy to lift her sights to professional goals. Coming to the chairmanship of the Midwest Chapter that year, she emphasized the need for "grass roots" organization: implementation of the Chapter aim to be of service to the smaller, general library without a music librarian, sometimes without music. She appointed chairmen within the states who in turn sought to arrange meetings, provide desirable programs, and perhaps begin to organize state groups.

Named to the states' committee were Bill Hulsker and Kurtz Myers for Michigan; Eldo Neufeld and Robert Johnson, Ohio; Christina Williams and Esther Lu Lasher, Indiana; Marion Korda and Adelle Dailey, Kentucky; William McClellan and Don Phillips, Illinois; Rita Benton, Iowa, who recommended Ethel Bloesch and Profs. Albert Luper and Frederick Crane; Jack Ralston and Betty Ringger Krause, Missouri; Josephine Machus (Oconomowoc Public) who suggested a second for Wisconsin; Katherine Holum and Janet Sniesrud, Minnesota.

With Olga's recommended questionnaire Don Phillips (Northern Illinois), to become Secretary-Treasurer of the Chapter 1971-73, circularized 156 Illinois music collections and received 111 responses from 29 public, 22 junior college, 18 college, 10 university, 1 school of music, 1 army, 1 4-year high school, 1 company, 1 hospital, 1 county and 5 "did not apply" libraries. The 1969-70 book-score holdings ranged from a high 80,000 to a low 10 (0), averaging 3,767; recordings ranged from 25,000 down to 93 (0), averaging 2,084. Tapes averaged 885. Forty-two collections included music in the main library. Don concluded his neat 22-page

document with this recommendation: "offer the assistance of larger institutions with professional staff to smaller institutions with non-specialist staff on any type problem, music particularly, when called upon. This is a possibility which could be advertised in Notes or other periodicals."

Of 65 questionnaires sent out by Tina Williams in her poll of Indianalibraries, 33 were returned--an excellent response considering the press of general libraries' operations (not to mention that of music libraries). Questions concerned music collections, music staff, and processing as well as subscription to Notes. Seven of the 17 large collections responding expressed an interest in union lists of collected works; of these, 3 were college and 4 public librarians. Of the small collections, 4 of 16 showed interest; 8 were college libraries. One librarian enthusiastically welcomed such a list; one library had discontinued Notes in 1966.

Bob Johnson, Univ. of Cincinnati, invited Ohio music librarians to an exploratory meeting May 8, 1971 in Athens, Connie Walsh, hostess. Twelve attended this first meeting of Music Libraries of Ohio. Clara Steuermann arranged a second meeting, attended by 75 at Kay Owen's Mayfield Regional Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland, with sessions "Equipment--Use and Abuse," "Selection of rock and popular recordings," "Classification and cataloging of records," "Circulation of recordings," "Phonorecords and cassette tapes" led by Robert Wilson, Marney Nordstrom, Barbara Schur, Kay Owen, and Stephen Matyi. A questionnaire return suggested 5 areas of interest for a 1973 gathering, to be at Middletown. Clara Steuermann and Bob Filgate represented Music Libraries of Ohio at a Junior Members' Round Table of the Ohio Library Association meeting, May 13, 1972, which concerned the reorganization of the Ohio state organization to include in addition to 6 classes of membership, Affiliate Members, to provide a "vehicle which shall allow closer cooperation among certain associations of the state (upon the payment of appropriate annual dues)." A third successful meeting transpired under Bob Filgate's leadership at Middletown on May 2, 1973--"More on Audio in the Library" (Plus), "Recent trends in audio hardware" (Kenyon Rosenberg, Kent State School of Library Science), "Processing and utilization of a popular music record collection" (Bill Schurk, Head, Popular Culture Library, Bowling Green State Univ.), "Acquisitions, Processing, Etc." (Judy Coon, Jayne Craven, Bob Johnson, Catherine Kilcoyne).

Six questionnaires contained responses from Missouri libraries during Olga's term. A 1975 submission drew 12 responses. Jack Ralston's commitment has resulted in at

least 3 Music in the Library meetings in Missouri, the third of which was held in Independence, Missouri, where Jack presented "Music in the Truman Library" with discussant Mrs. Elizabeth Costin of that library's staff. Cataloging and processing of phonorecords in the A-V Dept. of Mid-Continent Library, and a briefing on the cassette program in the 5-county system were followed by remarks of the manager of the fine music radio station KXTR-FM, who told of his hopes for the cataloging of that extensive recording collection.

In Kentucky the cooperation Marion Korda recommended as of most practical benefit was the computerized listing of major Kentucky libraries' music serial holdings: periodicals, collected editions, and monuments. Such a union list print-out has been available for consultation by patrons and library staff for several years. The initiation of a joint Ph.D. graduate program between the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville made such a list especially useful.

Katie Holum and Don Bemis Jones (St. Catherine's) hope to work through Mininet to get at a viable cooperative program in Minnesota.

(For purposes of reporting state group activities in one place, programs which developed during the terms following Olga's term are discussed here.)

In Illinois a day entitled "Music Acquisitions in the Smaller Library" was held in the Levis Faculty Center at the University of Illinois. Jean Geil chaired a session with the same name which featured June Highsmith, Philo Public Library; Anita Montgomery, President, American Student Media Association; Gale Newcomer, Music Dept., Rockford, Ill.; Lorraine Weber, Specialist in Instructional Materials, Undergraduate Library; Jim Rose of Rose Records, Chicago; and Bob Jones, Music Acquisitions Librarian. An afternoon discussion chaired by Don Phillips presented Margaret Dees, Past President, Illinois Library Association; Bill McClellan, Past President, MLA, and Jack Ralston, Chairman, Midwest Chapter. Another Illinois meeting was planned for the spring of 1976.

Institutional cooperation among the Big Ten Universities had an existing framework in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, Stanley F. Salwak, Director. Dominique De Lerma, in writing to Olga and Bill McClellan at the University of Illinois, cast about for a mechanism which would enable the participating libraries to know what unique or "semi-unique" phonorecord holdings existed. Having circularized the participating libraries, Dominique reported on Jan. 5, 1968 (a) all libraries record the major recitals of the institution; (b) the [tapes] are retained either permanently or for an indefinite time; (c) the cataloging of the

recitals is varied if existent; (d) copies could be made within the constraints of the copyright law; (e) in-library use of other schools' tapes would be possible in all cases; (f) out-of-library use varied. He hoped to attract foundation money to promote the exchange of cards once cataloging standards were established. Dominique urged at least the publication of a union list of non-commercial recordings held by the CIC libraries. He made similar efforts on behalf of a union list of periodical holdings.

Bill McClellan and Dominique De Lerma also hoped to produce a new music periodical, Bibliografia novae musicae; a quarterly dedicated to the bibliographic studies of international contemporary music, to include a bibliography of unpublished performance materials of contemporary music in Midwest libraries. Through Guy Marco and the Kent State University Press cost estimates were made: the base cost of \$10,000 was minimal; in general, university press expenses exceed income by \$50,000.

At the Oberlin meeting in 1968, Eldo Neufeld, Chairman of Local Arrangements, planned a session on new music notation with Prof. Richard Hoffman. An open rehearsal of the Oberlin Wind Ensemble (with guest strings) enabled registrants to sit in the midst of the performance where they could follow new notation in action.

Mabel Murphy (Southern Illinois, Edwardsville) acted as Program Chairman for the 1969 meeting in Minneapolis hosted by Katie Holum of the University of Minnesota. John Druesdow chaired a session "The Young Librarian and the System--Relationship and Relevance" with panelists Kurtz Myers, Dena Epstein, Bill McClellan and Guy Marco. A second session was devoted to the reorganization of state chapters. Other sessions included "The Music order: Blanket or Single," "The Binding Maze: How, What, Where?" with Marie Peck and Jan Snedrud. Clara Steuermann, Kay Owen, and Don Roberts considered "Reference Service Unlimited." A high point was the Guthrie Theater "Uncle Vanya" performance.

Clara Steuermann moved to continue the fostering of "reorganization." In addition--from a letter to national President Walter Gerboth, Nov. 10, 1969--she entered a new plea: discussions with the NASM a propos of "prescribing not only adequate library collections for accreditation purposes, but also stipulating a need for professional librarians to administer them. Are there music schools and departments without a music librarian?" Receiving encouragement, she suggested an NASM-MLA panel for the Oct. 23-24 Indianapolis meeting in 1970. A distinguished and stimulating group graced the first session: Walter Gerboth, MLA President; Bill McClellan, Vice-President; Dr. Carl M. Neumeyer,

President, NASM; Dr. Warren Scharf, former Executive-Secretary of NASM and Director of Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music, Berea, Ohio; and Bill Weichlein, Executive-Secretary of MLA. Acquaintance, understanding, the probing of standards, and ways in which the organizations might be mutually helpful were important results of this meaningful dialogue between the groups.

Don Roberts (Northwestern), who had hosted the memorable national meeting at Albuquerque during which--between professional meetings--he personally conducted a chartered bus tour to a Navajo ceremony few are privileged to see, was to add his expertise and energy to the Chairmanship from 1971-73. Secretary-Treasurer from 1969-71, Don profited by this continuity to develop another cooperative program, by appointing David Fenske (Indiana Univ.) to head a Microforms Committee including Robert Jones (Univ. of Illinois) and Lois Rowell (Ohio State). David mailed a questionnaire to 204 Midwest libraries. From the more than 85 returns he compiled a report which he summarized at the Iowa City meeting in October of 1972: 89 Midwest libraries hold 33,086 music microforms; 21,377 films; 2,199 fiches; 9,150 cards. Of these, 20 libraries have significant microform holdings--more than 100 titles. Most institutions would agree to submitting photocopies of their informational formats, totalling 27,215. Three institutions with 4,579 microforms, expected budgetary problems in copying the informational formats (order slips, catalog cards, whatever). It was hoped that a small grant could be obtained to provide a music librarian to edit the formats for publication, provide clerical help and pay for supplies, duplication and mailing. At that same meeting Don Roberts chaired a session reporting on special collections in Midwest libraries.

Bob Johnson (Univ. of Cincinnati) hosted a fine chapter meeting in the fall of 1973. Tours of the University's Music Library and Catalog Dept. of the General Library and of the handsomely equipped Auditorium, along with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth by the Cincinnati Orchestra, punctuated sessions chaired by Barbara Henry (Northwestern) and Clara Steuermann (Cleveland Institute of Music) focusing attention on "The Computer and its potential in cooperative cataloging; ramifications for music cataloging" and "Acquisitions: policies for purchasing, accepting gifts and use of blanket order plans." Don Krummel and Dr. Samuel F. Pogue spoke on "Music Printing." Adelle Dailey, Univ. of Kentucky, was Program Chairman.

Jack Ralston's hard-driving Chairmanship saw co-chairmen appointed (or re-appointed) to head state organizations within the Chapter. Off to a rugged start--with the

departure of Secretary-Treasurer Linda Dobbs, who did all she could to assist Jack in getting a replacement, the Chairman was fortunate in having able planners Glenn Patton, local host, and Steve Fry (Northwestern) Program Chairman, for the October 1974 meeting at Illinois Wesleyan, Bloomington. Steve's characteristic good humor with regard to his assignment comes out in a letter he wrote to Chairman Jack Ralston on Apr. 22, "The program is designed to stimulate us with the pathos, humor and drama of the music library, and prepare us to approach these new hard times." On that program which carried the theme "Resources of the Smaller College, University and Public Music Library" were sessions on "Record Dealers' Services for the Small Music Library" (Don Roberts, Chairperson, Phyllis Anderson, Northbrook Public); James Rose (Rose Discount Record Stores, Chicago) and Connie Saheb-Ettaba (Bro-Dart); "Exhibitionism in the Music Library: A Guide to Effective Displays (Steve Fry); and "Musical Services and Resources of the Smaller Library" chaired by Steve Fry and featuring Jean Geil: Reference Service; Glenn Patton: Gift and Exchange programs; Marianne Kozlowski: Friends of the Library; Jack Ralston: Inter-Library cooperation; and special luncheon speaker and lecturer Clara Steuermann, Librarian-Archivist, Schoenberg Institute, Los Angeles.

State MLA coordinators Jack appointed were David Fenske, IU, for Indiana; Olga Buth, OSU, for Ohio; Don Phillips, Univ. of Ill., for Illinois; Ada Berkey (Western Michigan at Kalamazoo) for that state; Greg Sakal (Reference and Loan Library, Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction, Madison); Katie Holum, for Minnesota; Mrs. Martha Gerstenberger and Ethel Bloesch, for Iowa; Robert Daw and Barbara Robbins, Kansas; June Thaden and Carol Wallace, Missouri; Marion Korda and Jeanne Holland, Kentucky; Andre Larson and M. L. Leget for the Dakotas. Later Bette Spencer (Indiana), Siegrun Folter (Illinois), Bill Hulsker (Michigan), Ruth Kuhs (Wisconsin), Mary Wylly (Iowa) and Susan Messerli (Nebraska) accepted co-representative appointment. Jack attempted to contact the Midwest Federation of Library Associations to offer MLA contributions.

Marion Korda and Marianne Kozlowski headed the Program Committee for the 1975 Columbus, Ohio, meeting which attracted 75 registrants. Highlight of the sessions, hosted by Olga Buth, was the OCLC presentation of Basis 70, a subject search procedure developed in cooperation with Batelle Institute, and BALLOTS, Stanford's information retrieval system. Susan Bradle on Feminism and Music; Robert Jones on Course work and programs in popular and commercial music, Bill Schurk on Bowling Green's Popular Culture Library, Ralph

Holibaugh on music coverage in national bibliographies with emphasis on the lack of coverage especially in the northern European countries were other provocative sessions. A tour of the OSU greatly expanded Music Library including the automated circulation system enhanced the occasion.

Lenore Coral (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison) and Marianne Kozlowski (Southern Ill., Edwardsville) are currently Chapter Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. Lenore hosted the 1976 chapter meeting, with a brand new listening center to serve as demonstration model for the first session "Hands Off: the Listening Center in the Music Library" and a panel consisting of Olga Buth, Katherine Holm, Lenore Coral, and Polly Timms, Madison Public; Don Roberts, moderator. "Specialty of the House: the Special Music Librarian," with Mary Haggerty, Chicago Public, moderator, was next: Walter Hoban: the Symphony Orchestra Librarian; Bob Shulman, Station WXRT, Chicago: the Rock Music Station; Andrea D'Alessio: Station WFMT, Chicago: the Classical Music Station; Elinore Barber, Riemenschneider Bach Institute, Baldwin Wallace College: the Special Collection; Mary Haggerty: The Private Collection. A final anthology: "The Musical 'PIE': Publish, Index, Edit;" Dena Epstein, Univ. of Chicago, moderator; with representatives Eugene Mironko, Phonolog; Richard Blackham, Schwann Catalogs; Charles Suber, Downbeat Magazine; Florence Kretzschmar, Music Index; and Paul Jackson, Recorded Sound Research.

Since history is still in the making, the author begs off further projections, prophetic or otherwise. Let the pages speak for themselves. The meetings and programs and countless committee members I have neglected to mention can be read about in the notebooks of the Chapter in the MLA archives.

One or two final notes: The state of the treasury of the Midwest Chapter has experienced considerable fluctuation, from 1955 when "the hat was passed," through lean years of \$1 dues, including the "below-zero" point at which Ada Berkey had to dip into her own funds until the treasury got back into the "black," back into green years, when receipts reached \$935, and the balance after meeting soared to \$562.

The constitution of the Chapter has been revised twice.

Last, but far from the least, borrowing from a letter of acknowledgement written by Clara Steuermann, "To the Singing Angels of Midwest MLA:

There was certainly an element of contrast when one considers the texts of the choral masterworks you performed in relation to the activities of your listeners at the very moment. I enjoyed it

tremendously, as did we all, and our thanks to you for contributing so graciously to the general pleasure."

Fond recollections of a marvelous afternoon at Dominique De Lerma's where among other things we saw that splendid bibliography of music periodicals of his which we hope to see in print beside his other titles some day.

It is with pardonable pride that we point to four national presidents from the Midwest Chapter (with how many to come?)

Bill Weichlein
Bill McClellan
Clara Steuermann
Dena Epstein

And so this chapter closes on nearly 30 years of the Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association.

Betty Olmsted
August 29, 1977

MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MIDWEST CHAPTER
Roster of Officers and Meetings

TERM. CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER, respectively (first line)
ANNUAL MEETING (following lines)

1948. William G. Hill, Ernst C. Krohn
#Univ. of Ill., Urbana, Mar. 4-5, 1949/Fest. of Contemporary Arts

1951-53. Allan P. Britton, Elizabeth Ohr
#Univ. of Michigan, Apr. 18-20, 1952
#State Univ. of Iowa, Apr. 17-19, 1953

1953-1955. Jay Allen, Jack Chitwood (Deputy Chairman)
#*Indiana Univ., May 14-16, 1954
#Univ. of Ill., Urbana, May 6-8, 1955

1955-57. Jack Chitwood, Gladys Wilson
*Roosevelt Univ., Chicago, Nov. 19, 1955
#Indianapolis Public/Jordan College of Music, Apr. 27-28, 1956
#Michigan State Univ., May 17-19, 1957

1957-59. Betty Olmsted, Clement Miller
#*Ohio State Univ., Apr. 25-27, 1958
#*Washington Univ., St. Louis/Concordia Seminary, May 3-5,
1959

1959-61. Bill Shank, Catherine Kilcoyne
#Valparaiso Univ. (Indiana), Nov. 13-15, 1959/Univ.
Composers Exchange
#Univ. of Chicago, MLA informal get-together, Nov. 13, 1960
#Univ. of Southern Ill., Carbondale, Apr. 15-16, 1961

1961-63. Bill Weichlein, Lloyd Engelbrecht
Wayne State Univ., Detroit, Detroit Public, Apr. 28-29, 1962
Northwestern Univ., Oct. 23-24, 1963

1963-65. Bruno Nettl, David Hall
Univ. of Louisville, Oct. 23-24, 1964
Milwaukee Public, Oct. 22-23, 1965

1965-67. Guy Marco, Bill Hulsker
Kansas City Public, Nov. 18-19, 1966/Mo. Lib. Assn.
#Newberry Library, Chicago, Nov. 11-12, 1967

1967-69. Olga Buth, Ada Berkey
Oberlin Conservatory, Nov. 1-2, 1968
Univ. of Minnesota, Oct. 24-25, 1969

1969-71. Clara Steuermann, Don Roberts
Butler Univ., Indianapolis, Oct. 23-24, 1970
Sherman Hotel, Chicago/Tri-State Lib. Assn., Nov. 4-6, 1971

1971-73. Don Roberts, Don Phillips
Iowa City, Oct. 19-21, 1972
Univ. of Cincinnati, Oct. 19-20, 1973

1973-75. Jack Ralston, Linda Dobbs
Illinois Wesleyan, Bloomington, Oct. 18-19, 1974
Ohio State Univ., Oct. 23-24, 1975

1975-77. Lenore Coral, Marianne Kozlowski
Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, Oct. 23-24, 1976

#Joint meeting with AMS
*Some individual sessions