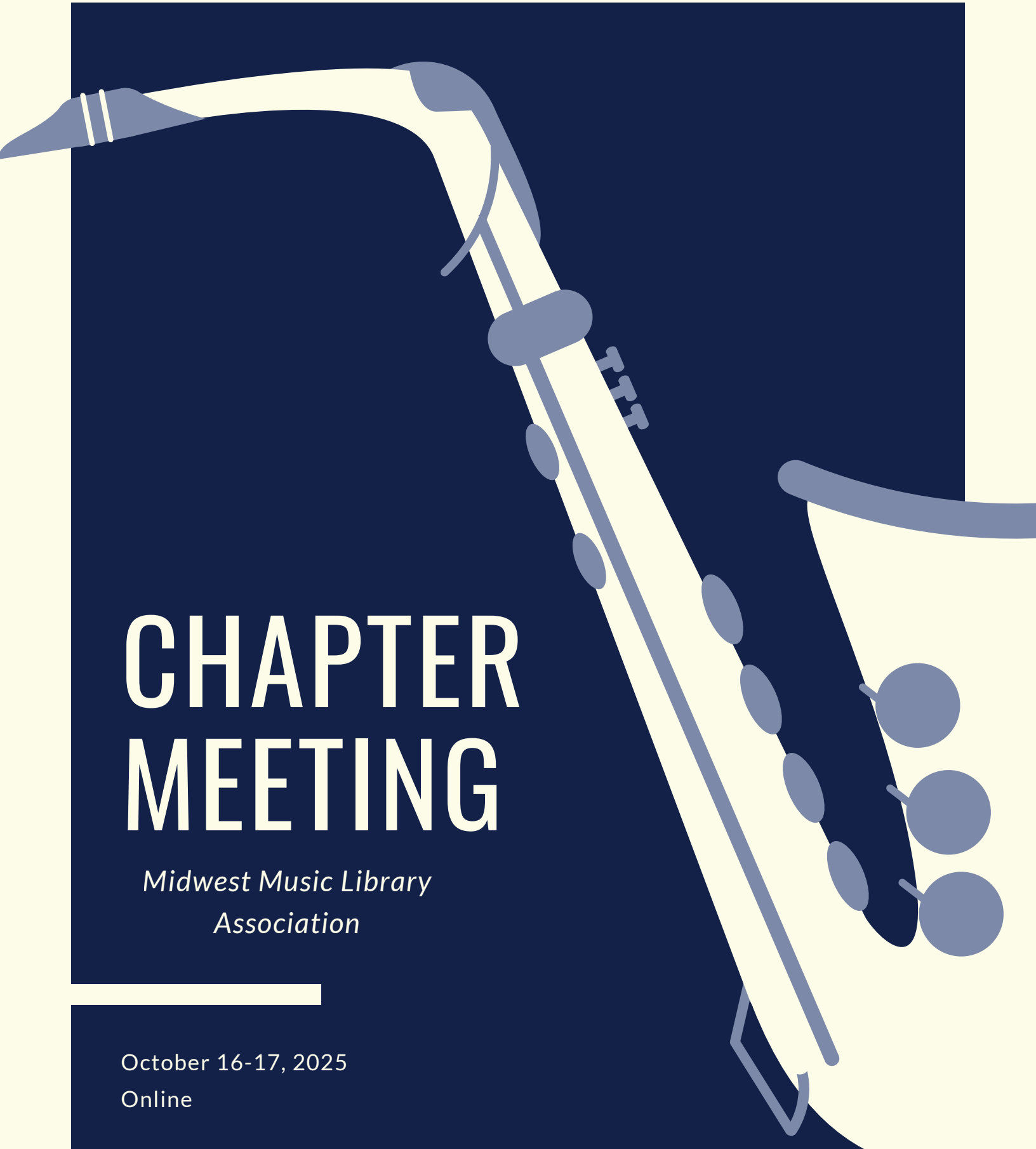
84TH ANNUAL



CHAPTER MEETING

Midwest Music Library Association

October 16-17, 2025

Online

THURSDAY

1:00 PM
Day One Welcome / Opening Remarks
Paul Cary, Midwest MLA Chapter President

1:10 PM
Virtual Tour of Midwest Music Libraries (Part A):
Michigan and Minnesota
Interlochen Center for the Arts
College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

2:00 PM
Building RAPMM:
Creating a Global Digital Archive For Popular Music Periodicals

2:30 PM
Co-Space Management:
Imagining Music Space for Live Music Learning Experiences

3:00 PM
This Presentation Is Under Construction:
Renovation In the Library

4:00 PM
Business Meeting

FRIDAY

1:00 PM
Day Two Welcome

1:05 PM
Virtual Tour of Midwest Music Libraries (Part B):
Ohio and Indiana
Ball State University
Ohio University

2:00 PM
Now Spinning:
Every LP All At Once In Athens

2:30 PM
Growing Pains (and Gains): Adapting to New Roles As a Music Librarian

3:00 PM
A Grand Collaboration:
The Ruth Slenczynska Centennial Celebration Symposium and Concert at SIUE

3:50 PM
Closing Remarks
Paul Cary, Midwest MLA President

ABSTRACTS

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Building RAPMM

In response to acquiring access to the extensive print holdings of popular music periodicals at Berklee College of Music, RILM initiated an effort to establish the RILM Archive of Popular Music Magazines (RAPMM)—an international digital archive of independently published fanzines and magazines devoted to popular music. This presentation will chronicle the multi-faceted journey from securing licensing rights and converting content from print to digital format to developing an innovative platform that ensures long-term preservation and intuitive user searching. With the recent launch of RAPMM, this talk will outline the technical, legal, and curatorial challenges encountered along the way, offering insights into the complexities of building a global digital resource for music scholarship.

Elizabeth Martin-Ruiz (RILM)

Co-Space Management

Redesigning the library services to serve current needs of music faculty and students has become one of top priorities for music librarians at academic institutions in this twenty-first century. The Music library at Northern Illinois University has worked together with the administrator of the school of music in redesigning the space to be at its full capability in utilizing activities and other services. To achieve the goal, surveys are launched to both music students and faculty to identify issues and preferred services in the areas of facilities, technologies, instruction, collection, exhibitions, and space. The outcome of the survey is used in redesigning space management and other services in collaboration with the music school who shared their current issues and needs. Through the process of evaluation of both results, the music library transformed its space and exhibition activities to merge with music school needs of music learning, sharing, and community engagement. The study displays strategies, planning, activities, and success in collaboration of space management at the music library of the Northern Illinois University.

Nan Yamprai (Northern Illinois University)

A Grand Collaboration

American pianist, Ruth Slenczynska, the last living student of Sergei Rachmaninoff, turned 100 in January 2025. In May, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) hosted a Slenczynska symposium that culminated in a tribute concert performed primarily by Slenczynska's former students. The symposium offered 3 presentations and a library exhibit about Ms. Slenczynska's extensive, distinguished musical life and career. It also featured a piano masterclass, dinner, and the concert that was videorecorded and livestreamed for Ms. Slenczynska to view in California. This PowerPoint presentation, given by Therese Dickman, SIUE Fine Arts Librarian (retired), will outline the planning begun one year in advance and the various levels of collaboration that contributed to the success of the events. Various Slenczynska images selected from the Ruth Slenczynska Music Collection and also some newly digitized, rarely-seen historic SIUE News Photo Service images and a brief segment of the videorecorded concert will be shown. The session will conclude with a 5-minute Q & A / discussion session.

More specifically, this presentation will reveal how the collaboration between the event planning team, library outreach and marketing team, MakerLab, various departments across campus, performers from various U.S. states and Salzburg, Austria, and others contributed to the success of the historic event. Some challenges and obstacles encountered will be identified for attendees to consider how they would approach overcoming those issues at their own institution. The planning solutions and experiences at SIUE may prove helpful to others when planning their own special collections-related historic events.

Therese Z. Dickman (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville)

Growing Pains (and Gains)

In this presentation, I will debrief my experiences in transitioning from my position as an early-career librarian at a public four-year university in Oklahoma to my new(ish) tenure-track position as Music & Performing Arts Librarian at the University of Kentucky. I will compare and contrast the demands of my current and past roles and discuss strategies I used to approach professional challenges. This presentation will also explore how differing library environments and external factors also influenced my approaches to collection maintenance and the types of collection development projects I undertook in each role. Early career attendees and those who are undergoing a job transition will glean an insightful perspective on career development and goal setting.

Maria Souliotis (University of Kentucky)

Now Spinning

A multitude of people, places, and things came together at just the right time, making it possible to turn some challenges into opportunities. Find out the who, what, where, when, why, and how we moved over 14,000 LPs across campus and gave them a new place in their old home.

Michelle Hahn (Ohio University)

This Presentation Is Under Construction

Music library staff have many skills—we can answer reference questions, develop and describe broad and deep collections, and share information about services and resources with users in exciting and enticing ways—but most of us are not designers. When faced with the challenges and opportunities of anything from a space refresh to a full remodel, music library experts may feel under-prepared or overwhelmed. Library renovation projects may arise suddenly due to disasters, deferred maintenance, or when administrations need to spend funds before the end of a fiscal year. No matter the impetus, library staff may feel unsure of where to start when asked to reimagine a space.

In this panel discussion, presenters who have experience with various types of large and small music library space projects will share lessons learned and positive outcomes that have improved user experiences for both library patrons and staff. Panelists and attendees will answer questions and explore strategies for brainstorming space configurations, choosing furniture, and liaising with colleagues to create functional and comfortable spaces that safely accommodate both users and collections. Practical takeaways will include decision-making tactics, methods for avoiding pitfalls, and ideas about what to expect when participating in a renovation. By taking part in this session, attendees will develop a starting point for possible future participation in their own library space refresh projects.

Jessica Abbazio (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Angela Pratesi (Bowling Green State University), Katie Buehner (University of Iowa), and Damien Ihrig (University of Iowa)

Virtual Tour of Midwest Music Libraries

Most years, the Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association visits a city where a university hosts our annual meeting. The opportunity to travel to a new locale and for members to experience the collections, practices, and traditions of a particular institution is one of the real treasures of an in-person conference. It is also a rewarding experience for the conference host to share a part of their own daily life with peers, many of whom after years of interactions feel like old friends.

Given the virtual nature of this year's meeting, the Program Committee solicited volunteers to describe "what might members enjoy learning about your collections, practices, and traditions if you were to host an in-person meeting?" In particular, we're highlighting smaller institutions who, unlike larger universities, might not have the opportunity to host a chapter meeting.

Please enjoy this virtual tour of midwestern music libraries that grounds our virtual conference not in a single location, but across our region. We hope it fosters community, empowers colleagues, and offers a preview for those new to the field of the variety of libraries in our region.

Interlochen Center for the Arts
Tarren Sexton

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
Bonnie Finn

Ball State University
Jackson Harmeyer

Ohio University
Carla Williams & Michelle Hahn

ABOUT MWMLA

Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association

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https://mwmla.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/