



United States – 2016

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Conferences

The 2016 MLA Annual Meeting was held in Cincinnati, Ohio on 29 February through March 6 with a registration of 338 members and 38 exhibitors. As is customary, the meeting was preceded by a two-day meeting of the Music OCLC User's Group (MOUG). This year we again presented sessions taking place in the plenary session meeting room via live-streaming, with positive feedback. The recorded video sessions can be viewed at (<https://vimeo.com/musiclibraryassoc/mla2016>). There were two plenary sessions: Diversity in MLA, sponsored by the MLA Diversity Committee, and Practical Applications of Linked Data, sponsored by the MLA Cataloging and Metadata Committee. Other program sessions offered included the following: New Collection Development and Resource Sharing Strategies for Music in a Post-FirstSearch-and-WorldCat-Selection World, Bridging Emerging and Established Approaches to Music Research, Creating Metadata for Rare and Archival Materials: Standards and Practices, and MLA Presidents Speak: Live in Cincinnati!, as well as many other music and library topics (for a complete program see http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/mpage/mla_2016). Slides and handouts can be viewed at <http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/?AnnualConferMaterial>).

Future conferences will be held 22–26 February, 2017 in Orlando, Florida, and 31 January to 4 February 2018 in Portland, Oregon. The Orlando conference will also be the first Pan-American Regional IAML meeting.

Publications

MLA publishes three periodicals: the quarterly journal, *Notes*, Debbie Campana, editor; the quarterly Newsletter, Michelle Hahn, editor; and the monthly Music Cataloging Bulletin, Christopher Holden, editor. The journal and newsletter are available as a benefit of membership, and all three publications are available by subscription. The MLA Newsletter is open access on the MLA website (<http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/?page=newsletter>).

With volume 72, no. 2, Deborah Campana assumed the editorship of *Notes*, continuing its tradition of interesting, informative, and well-written articles in the areas of music librarianship, music bibliography and discography, the music trade, and on certain aspects of music history. MLA also publishes three monographic series: Basic Manual Series, Index and Bibliography Series, and Technical Reports. Each of these series has several volumes forthcoming.

Awards

Reed David and Nurhak Tuncer were the recipients of the Lenore F. Coral IAML Travel Grant. They received support to attend the 2016 IAML annual conference in Rome. MLA's highest honor is the MLA Citation, a tribute for lifetime achievement, awarded in recognition of distinguished service to music librarianship over a career. This award is not presented every year; this year it was awarded to David Gilbert, head of the Music Library of the University of California-Los Angeles. Mr. Gilbert has been an active MLA member for more than thirty years and has served the organization in a variety of capacities, most notably in his efforts to help launch the ARL/MLA Diversity & Inclusion Initiative.

The A. Ralph Papakhian Special Achievement award is given for extraordinary service to the profession of music librarianship over a relatively short period of time. This year the award was given to Mark Puente, for his many tireless efforts toward greater diversity, equality, and inclusion in our profession. Through his work MLA has begun to make important strides in increasing the diversity of our membership, and eventually, the field of music librarianship.

MLA presents awards and grants annually to foster excellence in publication and research and to further professional development. In 2016, the Vincent H. Duckles Award for the best book-length bibliography or other research tool in music was awarded to Edward Komara and Greg Johnson for their work *100 Books Every Blues Fan Should Own* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014).

The Eva Judd O'Meara Award for the best review published in *Notes* was awarded to Richard Taruskin for his review of *Bewitching Russian Opera: The Tsarina from State to Stage* by Inna Naroditskaya (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012) in *Notes* 70/3 (March 2014): 423-426. The Richard S. Hill Award for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature was awarded to Jennifer Oates for her article, "Engaging with Research and Resources in Music Courses," *Journal of Music History Pedagogy* 4/2 (Spring 2014): 283-300.

The Dena Epstein Award supports research in archives or libraries internationally on any aspect of American music. This year two awards were given: to Louise Toppin for "Bibliography of the Concert Works by Composers of the African Diaspora," research to result in an extensive fully annotated published bibliography of vocal music by composers of the African Diaspora accompanied by an online database; and Jessica Stearns, for "Christian Wolff's Notation and its Context," research which explores the innovative, social, and improvisatory nature of experimental notation in the context of the New York School – comprised of John Cage, Morton Feldman, Earle Brown, and Wolfe – New York's cultural environment in the mid-twentieth century.

In cooperation with the Association of Research Libraries, MLA supports the ARL/MLA Diversity and Inclusion Fellows, a scholarship opportunity for library school students from under-represented racial and ethnic minority groups. This year's recipients were Opetoritse Agbejuleoritse Adefolalu, Avery Boddie, Morgan Davis, and Jessica Redhouse.

MLA also awards travel grants to encourage attendance and involvement at MLA as well as IAML conferences. The Kevin Freeman Travel Grant is awarded to students, recent graduates, or other colleagues who are new to the profession to support attendance at MLA annual meetings. For the 2016 meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Freeman recipients were Rachel Wishkoski, Joshua Dieringer, Patrick Sifuentes, Matthew Testa, Charlotte Plank, and Laura Thompson.

Committees

Much of the work of MLA is done through its 26 committees, 10 subcommittees, 2 joint committees, and 27 round tables. Space limitations prevent listing all of the committee activities and accomplishments over the past year here, so this report will only recount some

highlights. The reorganized Cataloging and Metadata Committee (formerly the Bibliographic Control Committee (BCC)) with its three subcommittees (Content Standards, Encoding Standards, and Vocabularies), along with several task forces, remains quite active. They continue to work on the development and implementation of Resource Description and Access (RDA) and BIBFRAME. The work of the Genre/Form Task Force was completed; the task force was dissolved at the end of the Cincinnati meeting and the final report of the group was submitted to the MLA Board. Many of the activities of MLA's various committees resulted in program sessions at the Cincinnati conference and other projects.

Board Operations

The Board has begun efforts to strengthen relationships with MLA chapters through a variety of initiatives, including plans to hold fall Board meetings in conjunction with the meeting of one of MLA's chapters. The Board is also working to establish stronger ties with other IAML national branches in the Western hemisphere, with CAML as well as with music librarians in Latin America. Plans are underway for the 2017 national meeting in Orlando to serve as our first Pan-American Regional IAML meeting and to encourage attendees from Latin America by possibly providing travel assistance to some participants.

MLA's financial position remains stable. The association continues to retain a committed core of enthusiastic and dedicated members. Although overall membership continues to decline, outreach efforts to paraprofessional and part-time members have resulted in gains in this category. MLA continues to face some significant challenges as well as opportunities, but the organization remains vital, vibrant, and engaged in the profession. We look forward to continuing engagement with our colleagues in other countries to advocate effectively for the cause of music libraries in the world.

Mark McKnight

Vice-President IAML (US), Music Library Association (MLA)