

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Fall 2002

Newsletter of the Lewis Music Library
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Lewis Music Library

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ENDICOTT DONATION TO CATALOG AND BIND VIOLIN MUSIC

The library was pleased to receive a gift of 2600 music scores of violin music from Lois Craig in 2001. This music, collected by her late husband Stephen Prokopoff, is a goldmine of valuable violin compositions. Because these are performing editions, we intend to circulate this music. It takes considerable staffing and funding to process a collection of this size. Fortunately for the library, Dorothea and Bradford '49 Endicott have provided a generous donation that will enable the library to catalog and bind this music. This summer, nearly 1000 scores were cataloged due to the tireless efforts of student assistant David Foxe '03 and music cataloger Ray Schmidt. We appreciate the Endicotts' vision and generosity in enabling us to make this music available. Music from this collection will be studied and enjoyed for many years to come. Violinists rejoice!

MIT MUSIC AND ORAL HISTORY

Two additional people have been interviewed this past year as part of the library's Music at MIT Oral History Project. In May, Dr. Robert (Bob) Spritch '60 recounted his experience working

at the MIT Music Library as a student assistant. He was given a great deal of responsibility in the day-to-day library operations during that time. His recollections from a student's viewpoint about the music faculty and the humanities curriculum of the period are most interesting. His warm affection for this library has remained. An active scholar and teacher, Bob is the Film Studies Coordinator at Bentley College.

In July, Forrest Larson interviewed Dr. Karl Kornacker '58, '62 at his home in Columbus, Ohio. While a student at MIT, Karl was active as a cellist. He played principal cello in the MIT Symphony under Klaus Liepmann (the first professor of music at MIT) and John Corley, appearing with the orchestra three times as a concerto soloist. He has thoughtful insights concerning the relationship between science and artistic creativity, and the special qualities that MIT students bring to music making. Currently a biophysicist at Ohio State University, Karl is also a developer of highly sophisticated computer software used in cancer genetics research.



MORE HIP HOP, FOLK MUSIC, AND OPERA

The Council for the Arts at MIT has awarded the library two important grants. This spring, the Council provided the library with \$2000 for the purchase of books, scores, CDs, and DVDs to support two new classes: Hip Hop (taught by Thomas DeFrantz) and Introduction to Anglo-American Folk Music (taught by George Ruckert and Literature Professor Ruth Perry). A wealth of compact discs, books, music scores, and DVDs was obtained over the summer, helping to expand the horizons of the library's collection in these areas.

This fall, the Council for the Arts awarded \$1000 to the library for the purchase of operas in DVD format. The Music and Theater Arts Section also contributed funding toward purchasing these operas. Professor Lowell Lindgren, Chair of Music and Theater Arts' Library Committee, examined the library's current holdings of operas and contacted several faculty members for their opinions concerning titles and performances to obtain. The approximately 70 DVDs to be acquired with this money will fill a significant gap in the collection. Thanks to all involved in helping us to expand and improve the library's opera holdings.



PRESERVING HISTORIC RECORDINGS

During the spring of 1955, five Boston-area composers gave lecture-recitals at the MIT Music Library. Beginning the series was Walter Piston (1894-1976), a distinguished composer and influential teacher at Harvard University. The other composers in this series were students of Piston: Nicholas Van Slyck (1922-1983), Arthur Berger (b.1912), Harold Shapero (b.1920), and Stefans Grove (b.1912). Reel-to-reel recordings of these events sat dormant in the library for nearly 50 years. This fall, we were fortunate to have the Piston, Van Slyck and Grove tapes superbly transferred to CD by recording engineer Mischa Schattner. His generosity in volunteering to perform this work is very much appreciated. He may have saved these unique recordings from oblivion. The library hopes to re-record other valuable MIT tape recordings before they deteriorate further.

CLASS OF 1982 AND THE BANJO CLUB OF 1893

Over the years, the Class of 1982 has been a sort of guardian angel to the Lewis Music Library. Members of this class send donations to the library where a separate fund for these donations was established. Through these gifts, the Class of 1982 has improved the library in many ways. This fall, the Class of 1982 funded the framing and mounting of a large (6 feet by 8 feet) photograph of the MIT Banjo Club from ca.1893 (see picture below). Obtained from the MIT Museum, the photo now hangs outside the entrance to the Lewis Music Library as a reminder of MIT's vital musical heritage over the centuries. Only with the Class of 1982 funding would this photograph have been preserved and made publicly accessible to the MIT community.



MIT Banjo Club, ca. 1893

ELECTRONIC RESERVES

This spring, the MIT Libraries plan to provide electronic course reserves support for 50 courses. The Libraries will continue its partnership with Academic Media Production Services (AMPS) in supporting courses using Stellar, MIT's web-based course management system. (See <http://libraries.mit.edu/subjects/ereserves/index.html>) This semester, listening assignments for Music of Indonesia (taught by Professor Evan Ziporyn) were again made available through the web to members of this class. Response has been enthusiastic to this method of listening. Next semester, the Lewis Music Library plans to digitize and make available more audio recordings for music courses. If faculty members are interested in an e-reserves project, please contact Forrest Larson or Peter Munstedt.

ASIAN MUSIC

The MIT Humanities Library and Lewis Music Library recently wrote a proposal to the MIT Libraries to increase the acquisitions budget in support of Asian studies. This proposal was accepted and the music budget will be increased by \$1500 each year for the purchase of books, scores, and recordings of Asian music. We will be in touch with George Ruckert (Indian music), Evan Ziporyn (Indonesian music), and other faculty members concerning their needs in this area. If anyone else has suggestions, please let the library staff know.

DONATIONS: APR. - Nov. 2002

The Lewis Music Library is grateful for the generosity of our donors:

Donations:

Sandra B. Champion, Kelly M. Clifford, Mrs. John E. Copenhefer, Council for the Arts at MIT, Amy Davidson Plummer, Tracy A. Embree, Daniel B. Fisher, Dr. and Mrs. Morton Grosser, Bruce Kiernan, Mrs. John H. Lutz, MIT Music and Theater Arts, Marie-Louise A. Murville, Gerald Nykolak, Paul. C. Paternoster, Rhonda E. Peck, Alan W. Peevers, Dr. John I. Rho, Lt. Col. Peter T. Rogers, Linda A. Sigman, Dr. Barbara A. Swanson, Dr. Bonnie Van Der Pers, Kimberly A. Vermeer, Mrs. Thomas C. Wood.

Gifts in kind:

Anonymous, Fred Choi and the MIT Songwriting Club, Council for the Arts at MIT, Lois Craig, Janet Grosser, Morton Grosser, Fred Harris, Haverford College, John Holland, Lark in the Morning, Thomas Oboe Lee, Lowell Lindgren, Margaret MacArthur, Martin Marks, MITHAS (MIT Heritage of the Arts of South Asia), MIT Music and Theater Arts, Tonya Monroe, Naxos of America, Inc., Ruth Perry, Norman Phillips, Carlos Prieto, George Ruckert, Dr. Robert Sprich, Patty Tang, Diego Vega, Virgin Records, Evan Ziporyn.

If we have inadvertently omitted your name from this list, please contact us!

∞ Many Thanks! ∞

Bad Jokes

How many banjo players does it take to screw in a light bulb?
Five: one to screw it in and four to (a) complain that it's electric; (b) lament about how much they miss the old one; (c) stand around and watch.

The composition of a string quartet: 1 good violinist, 1 bad violinist, 1 really bad violinist who became a violist, and 1 cellist who hates all violinists.

Supertonic: Schweppes

Metronome: A dwarf who lives in the city

Allegro: Leg fertilizer

LIBRARY TOURS, INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE

Anyone interested in a library tour or library instruction should contact Peter Munstedt. Both tours and instruction can be arranged for classes or individuals. Peter is also happy to visit faculty in their offices for help with research and teaching needs. With the rapid advances in librarianship during recent years, a refresher session is highly recommended so that faculty can take advantage of the many resources available both in print and electronically.

SPECIAL THANKS TO STUDENT ASSISTANT ANJU KANUMALLA '03 FOR HER WORK ON THE LAYOUT AND EDITING OF "WHAT'S THE SCORE?"

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