Noteworthy Connections — a Maihaugen Gallery Exhibit

The MIT Libraries' Maihaugen Gallery, established in 2008, highlights the depth and variety of the MIT Libraries' collections. This February to July, an exhibit entitled "Noteworthy Connections: Music in the MIT Libraries" highlights music materials selected from the Lewis Music Library and the Institute Archives and Special Collections, including examples of original manuscripts and rare books, facsimiles, faculty collections, circulating formats, as well as videos covering the Music at MIT Oral History project and Inventions of Sheet music collection. Music Librarian Peter Munstedt will give a gallery talk on the exhibition from noon-12:45 pm on Wednesday, May 1.

Individual items of interest include a rare reel-to-reel tape recording of Herb Pomeroy performing with Charlie Parker; autographed letters from Aaron Copland and Walter Piston to David Epstein; Bohuslav Martinu's autographed score to his Trio in d minor for violin, cello, and piano; a photo of Harold E. "Doc" Edgerton playing guitar at a social gathering; Paul Earl's handmade oscillator; and an original leaf from the Clarity Codex of medieval chants.

QR codes appear throughout the exhibit, providing links to audio clips that correspond to the visual exhibit items. They include faculty compositions, MITS0 selections, and more.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to highlight the important role of music at MIT and the extraordinary collections that support this discipline. Maybe, just maybe, we will finally hear the end of the question, "Is there really music at MIT?"
Spring Events and Concerts in the Library

The library hosts several events during the year. This spring semester, activities include the Composer Forum Series, an open house, and a concert of MIT students playing pieces chosen from a violin music gift received in 2001. These events attract many people from throughout the MIT community.

Past events:

Thursday, February 14, 5 pm
Composer Forum: Elena Ruehr

Tuesday, February 26, 5 pm
Composer Forum: Cindy Cox

Wednesday, March 13, 5 pm
Composer Forum: Don Byron

Upcoming events:

April

Wednesday, April 10, 5 pm
Composer Forum: Forrest Larson - Reception follows

Thursday, April 25, 3-5 pm
Open house and exhibit: Herb Pomeroy/Jazz@50

Tuesday, April 30, noon-1 pm
11th Annual Prokofoff Violin Music Concert

Pomeroy Collection and Good/Close Gift

In 2010, the family of jazz legend Herb Pomeroy donated his personal collection of scores, recordings, correspondence, publicity materials, and photographs to the Institute Archives and Special Collections and the Lewis Music Library. His collection documents significant aspects of MIT jazz performance history from 1963 when Herb established the Festival Jazz Band to his retirement in 1985.

The Libraries intend to preserve this valuable collection and make it available as widely as possible. Of course, such work requires funding. Fortunately, Michael Good '79 and JoAnn Close '82 have made a generous donation to begin this work. The first step will be to inventory and begin digitizing the reel-to-reel and cassette tapes, which are the most at-risk materials in the collection. Other alumni are also contributing to this project. The library appreciates their support in making Herb Pomeroy's legacy live on for future generations.

Oral History Website

The Music at MIT Oral History Project has reached another milestone. All 49 interviews will be available via streaming video or audio this spring with a new website. Users will be able to search the website and easily research this rich history.

The website marks the last phase for this successful oral history project, which captured an enormous amount of information that would have been lost without these interviews. Thanks to Lionel Kinney '53 for his generous support of this work over the years. Lewis Music Library staff will now pursue the next major goal of digitizing historic MIT recordings (see p.3).

Did You Know...??

...that the Lewis Music Library's own Forrest Larson is also a distinguished composer? Forrest is the featured speaker at the April 10th Composer Forum, sponsored by MIT Music and Theater Arts.

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New Manuscripts and Rare Books

The extraordinary generosity of the Class of 1982 continues, this time allowing the library to purchase several rare books and manuscripts to support music classes. The first book to arrive was a medieval Gregorian chant manuscript that contains 16 Spanish and Italian chant leaves dating from 1400-1600 (see below). Professor Michael Cuthbert’s Early Music class began studying these chants the day the library received them in late February. Other items obtained with Class of 1982 funding include Apollo’s Cabinet: or the Muses Delight (see below), Vol. XI of Rousseau’s Oeuvres complètes 1824, Book of Psalms 1669, and a chant manuscript from around 1650.

Bad Jokes

Q. What do you call an early American drawing?
A. A Yankee doodle.

Q. How do you get a conductor to argue with you?
A. Say something.

Q. What stops a violist from performing and partying?
A. Two long bar lines.

Lewis Music Library Digital Initiatives Fund

The MIT Libraries owns hundreds of recordings containing concerts performed on campus by faculty, students, and outside artists from the 1950s through the 1990s. Most are on reel-to-reel tapes or audio cassettes, and several of them are unique and irreplaceable. If ignored, the sound on these tapes will eventually be lost.

In order to deal with this problem, a new fund was created: the Lewis Music Library Digital Initiatives Fund. Lionel Kinney ’53 and Vilma Kinney are generously supporting this new fund. The first phase of this initiative will be to inventory and reformat the most important tapes.

Library Tours and Instruction Available

Library tours and instruction are available for faculty, students, and alumni. Contact Peter Munstedt for more information or to schedule a visit.

Get the Latest, Automatically — use RSS feeds!

MIT Libraries' newest arrivals: libraries.mit.edu/help/rss/barton
Also lists books, CDs, DVDs, and scores.

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Donations
(March 2012-March 2013)

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

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Many Thanks!
If we have inadvertently omitted your name from this list, please accept our apologies and let us know!

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