Fund for Jewish Music History Established

Former Music Library student assistant Michael Gruenbaum '53 and his late sister Marietta Gruenbaum Emont created the Dr. Karl and Mrs. Margaret Gruenbaum Fund for Jewish Music History in memory of their parents. Their father was killed in the Holocaust; Michael, Marietta, and their mother were imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp. Holocaust reparations to the family were used to create this fund which will allow the Lewis Music Library to purchase a variety of Jewish music.

The library has already obtained a wide range of materials by composers and performers such as Burt Bacharach, Daniel Barenboim, Leonard Bernstein, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Itzhak Perlman, Stephen Sondheim, Alexander Zemlinsky, and John Zorn. The books, scores, CDs and DVDs purchased through this fund will help to support and strengthen teaching within the MIT music curriculum. Students studying everything from Introduction to Western Music to popular music and film music will benefit from this funding. Materials purchased with this gift are already circulating briskly. Our deepest thanks to Michael for his vision and generosity.
Fall Events in the Library

The library is hosting nine events this semester, which include a wide variety of topics, such as play readings, a composer forum, and a concert of students’ electronic music. These events attract many people and help the library to be even more active within the MIT community.

September

Thursday, September 22, 7–9 pm
*It’s Alive!* - Staged play readings by students:
Alan Brody: *Medea’s Nurse*

Thursday, September 29, 4 pm
*Into the Sky With Diamonds: the Beatles and the Race to the Moon in the Psychedelic ‘60s*
Book Discussion with Author:
Ronald P. Grelsamer, M.D. – Reception follows

October

Thursday, October 13, 7–9 pm
*It’s Alive!* - Staged play readings by students:
Edward Albee: *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Thursday, October 20, 5 pm
Composer forum: Tod Machover - Reception follows

November

Tuesday, November 8, 7–9 pm
*It’s Alive!* - Staged play readings by students:
Elfriede Jelinek: *Illness, or Modern Women*

Thursday, November 10, 5 pm
Composer forum: Julia Wolfe - Reception follows

Monday, November 21, 5 pm
Composer forum: John Harbison - Reception follows

December

Tuesday, December 6, 12 noon
Sonorous Currents: live electronic music by students

Monday, December 12, 5 pm
Composer forum: Terry Riley - Reception follows

More Contemporary Scores Available to MIT Community

The MIT Libraries joined the Ivy League libraries in the Borrow Direct Library Partnership which will give the MIT community better access to the collections of member libraries. This agreement provides an opportunity to collect music cooperatively so that libraries in the network get the most out of their budgets.

A Contemporary Scores Project has emerged from this partnership which allows each library to focus on collecting the music of certain composers. Scores are ordered and sent automatically to each library. MIT chose over 300 composers as part of this project, and these scores are beginning to arrive in the library now. The combined strength of these libraries’ holdings will provide MIT users with a wealth of contemporary music at their disposal.

Music for Your Laptop

Classical Scores Library

This past spring the library purchased a new database of electronic scores. *Classical Scores Library* contains important classical scores and manuscripts, allowing for the study and analysis of more than 25,000 scores representing over 400,000 pages of music. These e-scores are available to the MIT community at libraries.mit.edu/get/escores

Classical Music Library (audio)

A new streaming audio subscription is being ordered from Alexander Street Press. *Classical Music Library* is an extensive collection of more than 210,000 tracks from the world’s most renowned classical music labels.
Oral History Update

Two new interviews have been conducted by Forrest Larson. In March, he interviewed Everett Longstrehth, Director of the MIT Concert Jazz Band from 1968-1995 and a well-regarded band leader, trumpet player, and arranger. He performed with the Woody Herman Band, the Herb Pomeroy Orchestra, Frank Sinatra and appeared on The Tonight Show and The Ed Sullivan Show. He also taught at the Boston Conservatory.

This past August, Forrest Larson interviewed Barry Vercoe, Professor Emeritus of Music and Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at MIT. In 1973, Professor Vercoe established the MIT Experimental Music Studio, and was a founding member of the MIT Media Lab. His pioneering work in computer music includes the widely used Csound program and the development of technology that enables computers to listen and respond in real time to performers. He has written orchestral, choral, and chamber music as well as innovative works that combine computer-generated sound and live performers. Mark Ethier ’01, a former Lewis Music Library Student Assistant and co-founder/CEO of iZotope, Inc., assisted Forrest in the interview.

This fall, Jennifer Peterson was hired as the Oral History project’s Administrative/Editorial Assistant. This newly created part-time position will assist with administrative tasks as well as copy editing and research.

The Samuel Jay Keyser and Everett Longstrehth video interviews are now available on MIT TechTV: tv.mit.edu/collections/mitlibraries:2172

The MIT Oral History Project libraries.mit.edu/music/oralhistory is funded through the generosity of Lionel and Vilma Kinney.

Library Receives Chant Leaves

In August, a surprise donation was received from Constance Kantor. Her father, Samuel Glaser ’25, acquired the remains of a large and beautiful Spanish chant manuscript written on animal skin and probably compiled in several stages between 1400 and 1650. This donation includes eleven large, detached sheets along with the binding (see our Spring 2011 newsletter) which contains the index and a leaf from an unrelated Book of Psalms. Together with digital images of 13 other folios held privately in Boston and throughout the world, students in Professor Michael Cuthbert’s Early Music seminar are reconstructing the contents of the original manuscript. Using both traditional and modern techniques of handwriting study and library searching, the undergraduates in the class will bring the results of their labors to the wider world in the form of a website containing images, essays, and analysis.

Early Music Facsimiles

An anonymous donor generously provided funding for the library to purchase two outstanding medieval facsimile scores:

Codex 121 Einsiedeln. M2148.L4 1991a

These beautiful facsimiles are being studied by MIT students in Early Music and other classes.

Bad Jokes

Q. What separates viola players from the apes?
A. The second violins.

Q. Fritz Kreisler, Nathan Milstein and Jascha Heifetz are in a balloon that’s falling to earth. Who gets saved?
A. Mozart.

A string trio dies in a car crash and goes to heaven. Saint Peter asks them all, “What did you do with your life?”

The cellist says, “I taught people the beauty of music,” and is allowed to enter.
The violinist says, “I taught people the joy of music,” and is allowed to enter.
The violist says, “I was a concertmaster and I believe you’re in my seat.”
Donations (March-October 2011)

Donations to the library help us grow in so many ways. The Lewis Music Library is grateful for the generosity of our donors:

Donations:

Donations to the Dr. Karl and Mrs. Margaret Grünbaum Fund for Jewish Music History:
Michael Gruenbaum, Marietta Grünbaum Emont, Edgar Krasa.

Donations to the Lionel Kinney (1953) Music Oral History Fund:
Lionel and Vilma Kinney.

Donations to the Lionel (1953) and Vilma Kinney Music Score Acquisition Fund:
Lionel and Vilma Kinney.

Donations to the John N. Pierce (1954) Memorial Fund:
Julian J. Bussgang, Daniel L. Orange, Mrs. John N. Pierce.

Donations to the Class of 1982 Music Library Fund:
Hugh A. Barton, John M. Brooks, Janet L. Joziwak, Roger J. Pellegrini, Aiko M. Pinkoski, Amy Davidson Plummer, Joseph A. Post, Peter T. Rogers.

Gifts in Kind:
City University of Hong Kong, Mary Emerson-Smith, Carma Forgie, William Hays, Lowell Lindgren, Tod Machover, Martin Marks, Howard Martin, Georgiana McReynolds, Elsa Krasner Miller, Margo Miller, MITHAS (MIT Heritage of the Arts of South Asia), Peter Munstedt, Seda Röder, Warren Seamans, Smithsonian Chamber Music Society, Sam and Ina Storobin, Duschka Weisskopf, Pamela Wood, Rosian Zerner.

The Midnight Flyer, 1903
[Inventions of Note sheet music collection]

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

Library Tours Available

Library tours are available to alumni/ae visiting the campus. Contact Peter Munstedt who will be happy to show you the library's facilities and collections.