Spring 2002
Newsletter of the Lewis Music Library
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Authors@MIT
The first Authors@MIT event ever held in the Lewis Music Library took place earlier this semester. Professor Ellen T. Harris gave a lively talk about the background of her latest book, *Handel as Orpheus: Voice and Desire in the Chamber Cantatas* (Harvard University Press, 2001) on February 13. Professor Harris presented intriguing facts and anecdotes along with examples of Handel’s music that she sang from a keyboard. She also explained about the controversy that her book has created worldwide concerning the sexual context of this music. Her presentation was filmed by MIT Audio Visual for inclusion in the MIT World Video Archive. You can view it at [http://web.mit.edu/mitworld/content/authors/harris.html](http://web.mit.edu/mitworld/content/authors/harris.html).

After the success of this event, we hope to have more talks in the library. Please let the Lewis Music Library staff know if you’ve written a book that you would like to discuss with the MIT community.

Violin Music CDs
Lois Craig recently donated 549 compact discs to the library. These CDs were collected by her late husband Stephen Prokopoff, a museum director and violist. Last year, Mrs. Craig gave the library her husband’s collection of over 2600 music scores consisting of an exquisite array of violin music carefully selected over the years. Not surprisingly, these CDs reflect the same sophisticated taste. The CD collection has a special emphasis on 20th-century music, although other periods of music are included. And while the strength of the collection is violin and string music, it also contains orchestral music and music written for other instruments.

This donation will help to widen the scope of the library’s CD holdings by providing new compositions and performances not previously held. We appreciate Lois Craig’s generosity in providing the MIT community with recordings that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Music Scores Online
This February, Peter Munstedt along with Connie Mayer of Harvard’s Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library gave a presentation entitled “Scores on the Web” at the national Music Library Association meeting in Las Vegas. Working in conjunction with Carl Jones, Head of the Systems Office for the MIT Libraries, Connie and Peter have been exploring the possibility of a cooperative method for libraries to scan music scores in the public domain and make them available on the web. Many earlier editions of music, including the complete works of composers, are copyright-free and therefore eligible to be scanned and placed on the web free of charge. It is hoped that music libraries throughout the country will find a way to create one database of scanned scores.
Music Scores Online
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thereby avoiding duplications of effort and allowing users to obtain music through a single search screen.

Thomas Oboe Lee

Composer Thomas Oboe Lee toured the Lewis Music Library earlier this semester. Mr. Lee is not a stranger to MIT – he taught here for a period of time during the 1980s. Currently a member of the Boston College music faculty, he has written a wide range of compositions. Among his many honors are the Koussevitzky Tanglewood Composition Prize, MacDowell Colony Fellowships, Guggenheim Foundation Fellowships, National Endowment for the Arts Composers Fellowship, and the Rome Prize Fellowship (American Academy in Rome). His music is published by G. Schirmer/Associated Music Publishers and by his own publishing company, Departed Feathers Music. Recording companies that have issued his music include Nonesuch, GM Recordings, Northeastern, BMG Catalyst, MCA Classics, and Koch International.

The library has obtained 6 CD recordings and 21 scores of Mr. Lee’s works, including piano music, vocal music, symphonies, and chamber music. Students will enjoy listening to and performing this music. Look for these materials to be cataloged and appear on our shelves later this semester.

Early English Books Online

Want to find the music scores of William Byrd, Henry Purcell, Henry Lawes, or other 16th- and 17th-century English composers? How about obtaining this music from your computer? Then check out Early English Books Online (EEBO). The MIT Libraries recently obtained this full-text database which includes over 125,000 publications from England during the years 1475-1700. These titles are listed in Pollard & Redgrave’s Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640), Wing’s Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700), and the Thomason Tracts (1640-1661). A large number of music publications are included in this database. Downloadable PDF format makes it easy to print out these scores. Searchable fields include Author, Title, Printer, Publication date, Type of illustration, and Library of Congress subject heading. If you are doing any work with early English music, please take a look at this impressive online site. EEBO is available to the MIT community only. It can be located from the Lewis Music Library’s homepage (under Databases for Music).

Infinite Miles and Bunnies

Congratulations are in order for Forrest Larson, Circulation & Reserves Assistant for the Lewis Music Library, who received two awards given to library staff. He was first awarded the prestigious Infinite Mile Individual Award for Community for his work in organizing and coordinating the MIT Libraries’ annual IAP Staff Concert. The recognition statement reads, in part:

Forrest “has contributed for over ten years, providing ‘behind the scenes’ support and initiative for a major annual event. His efforts, which are above and beyond his regular job responsibilities, give us a chance to see our colleagues in a far different way… For major ongoing contributions to enhancing our cultural work environment and enjoyment, for helping us know each other a little differently, for helping us let our hair down and enjoy the many diverse talents and contributions from a number of our fellow staff. His work in coordinating the annual IAP Library Staff concert is a fine example of how we build communities and work together.”

In March, Forrest was also presented with the Humanities Library’s annual Bunny Award. This award recognizes a staff member who goes above and beyond the normal job expectations. Forrest was singled out for his work on the Music at MIT Oral History Project, work that Forrest accomplishes in addition to his circulation and reserves assignments. We appreciate Forrest’s many contributions to the library.

Library Hops, Sings, Fiddles Into New Era

The Lewis Music Library collects music in many areas such as classical music, world music, film music, jazz, and electronic music. Due to two new classes to be taught in Fall 2002, our collection is about to expand its horizons even more. You will be seeing much more hip hop and folk music in the coming weeks.

Hip hop and rap books, CDs, DVDs and videos are now appearing here in larger numbers. Several recordings and books have been ordered for a class on Hip Hop to be taught by Thomas DeFrantz in Fall 2002. While the library already owned a very few rap CDs, this type of music has been outside the scope of the library’s collecting. Judging by the enthusiastic response we’ve received from students, these materials will be in great demand.

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**Library Enters New Era**  
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Also this fall, George Ruckert will be co-teaching with Literature Professor Ruth Perry a class entitled Anglo-American Folk Music. This class will concentrate on two areas: the ballad as found in Anglo-American manifestations and the fiddle music in those areas. While the library owns some ballads and fiddle music, we will attempt to strengthen these holdings. We anticipate great student interest in this class as well.

**30 Years!**

Christie Moore, Collections & Processing Assistant in the Lewis Music Library, was recognized by the MIT Libraries for 30 years of service in the music library. During this time, Christie has contributed her professionalism, expertise, and enthusiasm to the operations of the library. Much of her work is behind the scenes, in the acquisition and processing of materials, but those of you who deal with her know the kind of thorough work she accomplishes. She has also served on several library committees, and has recently taken on responsibility for the library's web work. Without question, our music library is a much better place because of Christie’s dedicated work. Congratulations and many thanks to Christie!

**Donations – 10/01 to 4/02**

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

*Donations:*

Louis Alexander, Edward Colker and Elaine Galen (in honor of Stephen Prokofoff), Dr. Libby Cone, Amy Davidson Plummer, Sara P. Gaucher, Ruth and Charles Gaumond, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, Janet Grosser, Dr. Morton Grosser, Dr. Susan L. Kannenberg, John D. Kennedy, J. Patrick Kinney, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Kristofek, Peter D. Matthews, Gerald Nykolak, Mrs. John N. Pierce, Jeffrey B. Sakaguchi, Dr. C. Robert Sprich (in memory of Robert R. Reeve), Jason Weller, Peter J. Wender, Dr. Brian E. White.

*Gifts in kind:*

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

 Erotica Music! 💖

**Bad Jokes**

A young child says to his mother, “Mom, when I grow up I’d like to be a musician.” She replies, “Well honey, you know you can’t do both.”

Q: What’s the similarity between a drummer and a philosopher?
A: They both perceive time as an abstract concept.

Q: What is another term for trombone?
A: A wind driven, manually operated, pitch approximator.

Q: Why is a Viola called “Bratsche” in Germany?
A: That’s the sound it makes when you sit on it.

Countertenor: A singing waiter.

Half Step: The pace used by a cellist when carrying his instrument.

Soprano Solfege: do, re, mi, me, Me, Not You, ME!!

**Getty Foundation Grant**

The library has received a generous donation from the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation for the purchase of contemporary music scores. This gift will allow the library to obtain a wide range of music representing many of today’s most influential composers. Thanks to Ellen Harris and the Music and Theater Arts Section for their role in supporting the library with this funding.

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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