Library Concert Featured Prokofoff Violin Music

The Lewis Music Library hosted a concert of violin music featuring MIT students on Friday, April 11, 2003. A standing-room-only audience enjoyed music that included a variety of lesser-known gems by Boulanger, Persichetti, Villa-Lobos, Pichl, and Kreisler, among others. Eleven of MIT’s finest student musicians performed in the concert. The MIT Libraries’ Associate Director for Collection Services, Carol Fleishauer welcomed the audience at the start of this event.

The concert featured music from a donation to the library of 2,680 violin scores given by Lois Craig, former Associate Dean of MIT’s School of Architecture and Planning. Her late husband Stephen Prokofoff, who was a museum director as well as a fine violinist, assembled this extensive collection from various countries over many years. His collection includes music from the 18th century on, with a special emphasis on the 20th century. Dorothea and Bradford ‘49 Endicott provided a generous donation that is enabling the library to catalog and bind this music so that it can circulate.

Act and Music major David Foxe ’03 organized and assembled the performers for this concert. As a student assistant in the Lewis Music Library, David worked closely with this violin music, helping to catalog over 1,000 pieces. In doing so, he also examined the music and played through several pieces with other students. For this concert he selected rarely performed music that has become unduly neglected. The concert was sponsored by the MIT Libraries and the Music and Theater Arts Section.

Popular CD Music Gift

Larry Ward ’93 sent the library 118 compact discs consisting of popular American music, mostly from the 1980s and 1990s, along with several movie soundtracks. In previous years, the library might have declined such music because it lay outside our collecting scope. However, the Music and Theater Arts Section has been introducing new courses that study popular music and culture. This past semester, Thomas Defrantz taught a course on hip-hop, while Patricia Tang will teach Popular Music of the World in Fall 2003. As the Music and Theater Arts Section’s musical horizons expand, so do the library’s collection policies. Five music faculty members examined the Ward gift and selected CDs for

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**Popular CD Music Gift**  
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the library that would help support their teaching. We appreciate Larry Ward’s generosity in thinking of our library as a home for these recordings. They will no doubt receive heavy use for both class assignments and recreational listening.

**The DVDs are Coming!**

The library has obtained over 100 DVDs this semester. These DVDs include some fine recordings of the standard opera literature as well as a few well-known ballets. Our DVD holdings have been strengthened considerably through this purchase. Funding for these DVDs was obtained from the Council for the Arts and the Music and Theater Arts Section. Many of these DVDs have already been cataloged and are available to our users. Response to this new addition to the library collection has been enthusiastic. DVDs may be viewed within the library, and they also circulate overnight to the MIT community. Thanks to Professor Lowell Lindgren for his help in making this project possible.

**Electronic Reserves**

In recent years, academic libraries have been digitizing reserve materials, such as articles and parts of books, so that students could obtain class assignments online. Students could then study this information anytime day or night from the convenience of their dorm rooms. Along with print materials, music libraries have also been digitizing audio assignments for classes and providing them online.

The MIT Libraries have been expanding their support of e-reserves during the past year by partnering with Academic Media Productions (AMPS) to support courses using Stellar, MIT’s web-based course management system (see: [http://libraries.mit.edu/subjects/ereserves/index.html](http://libraries.mit.edu/subjects/ereserves/index.html)). E-reserves for 38 courses were supported this semester by the MIT Libraries.

Three years ago, the Lewis Music Library provided audio electronic reserves on a limited basis as part of a pilot project. This semester, the library has broadened its e-reserves services to include access to recordings for three music classes. Access to these sound files is limited by password to class members only. The staff’s work on music e-reserves this semester has helped the library to understand the amount of time involved in this process for both the library and participating faculty members.

The library plans to provide additional music e-reserves for future courses. Information concerning the requirements for participation will be provided to faculty in the future. Anyone interested in e-reserves should contact Forrest Larson or Peter Munstedt.

**Oral History**

In upcoming interviews being planned for the Music at MIT Oral History Project, we will dig further into the impressive legacy of jazz at the Institute. This year is the 40th anniversary of the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble. Their current director, Fred Harris, has invited alumni of this group and its predecessor “The Techtonians” back to MIT for a reunion and concert on May 3, 2003. Forrest Larson is coordinating with Fred to arrange interviews with some of these musicians, many of whom are still actively playing. MIT’s jazz history has not always been well documented. With these interviews, we will fill in some of the gaps. The founding director of the Festival Jazz Ensemble was the noted trumpeter Herb Pomeroy, leading the band from 1963-1985. In 1970 this group was the first collegiate jazz band invited to the Montreux Jazz Festival. Herb was the subject of three in-depth interviews with Forrest Larson in 1999 and 2000.

Since we began the oral history project in 1999, nine individuals have been interviewed, totalling sixteen interview sessions. Interview subjects have included distinguished retired faculty and notable former students. As time allows for this project, future interviews will encompass an even wider cross-section of MIT music history. Two areas that have not yet been explored are musical theater and popular music. These genres have been a vibrant part of music at MIT since the founding

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Oral History
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of the Glee Club back in 1883. We hope to begin interviewing people who have contributed to this scene. If you know of individuals who might be interested, please contact Forrest Larson.

Apollo’s Fire
Thomas F. Peterson, Jr. ’54 recently sent the library a gift of twelve CDs consisting of music by the Baroque orchestra Apollo’s Fire, which performs 17th- and 18th-century music on period instruments. We think you’ll enjoy the spirited performances by this Cleveland-based orchestra, conducted by Music Director Jeannette Sorrell.

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 libraries 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.

Donations: Dec.’02 - Apr. ’03
The Lewis Music Library is grateful for the generosity of our donors:

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

Many Thanks!

Mozart Donation
A total of 130 volumes from the Neue Mozart Ausgabe, published by Bärenreiter in subscription form between 1956 and 1999, were donated by Bruce Bogert ’44. With a second copy in the library, our library users will be allowed to check out individual volumes from this edition. The MIT community will have ready access to a prestigious musical edition that includes the finest Mozart scholarship in recent years. From the student writing a term paper to the faculty member conducting scholarly research, countless individuals at MIT will benefit from Dr. Bogert’s generosity.

Special Thanks to Student Assistant Anju Kanumalla ’03 for her work on the layout and editing of “What’s the Score?”

Bad Jokes

Awful Viola Jokes
Q. What’s the latest crime wave?
A. Drive-by viola recitals.

Q. How many violists does it take to make a batch of chocolate chip cookies?
A. Ten: one to stir the batter, and nine to peel the M&M’s.

Q. What is the longest viola joke?
A. Harold in Italy.

Advertisements:
For sale: Viola, German, 19th century, 405mm. Excellent condition. Recently tuned.

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Lame Excuses Department:
“You can’t possibly hear the last movement of Beethoven’s Seventh and go slow.” ~Oscar Levant, explaining his way out of a speeding ticket.
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