What's the Score?
NEWSLETTER OF THE LEWIS MUSIC LIBRARY

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6th Annual Prokopenoff Concert to be Held April 18

The 6th annual Prokopenoff violin music concert will be held in the Lewis Music Library at noon on Friday, April 18, 2008. MIT students will perform music chosen from the more than 2,600 violin music scores given to the library in 2001 by Stephen Prokopenoff's widow Lois Craig, former Associate Dean of MIT's School of Architecture and Planning. This year's concert will include works by Fritz Kreisler, Pablo de Sarasate, George Gershwin, J. S. Bach, and others. Following the concert, join us at the opening reception of the new Maihaugen Gallery from 1-3 pm. The gallery is adjacent to the Institute Archives, just down the hall from the Lewis Music Library. Both events are free and open to the public.

Historic Poster Now Adorns Library

Lois Craig has been one of the library's most active supporters. Most recently, she gave the library an original poster advertising a 1932 production in Amsterdam of the opera Boris Godunov with the world-famous bass Fyodor Chaliapin in the lead role. This large (40" x 51") framed poster is the work of the artist Joop Sjollema (1900-1990). Mrs. Craig's husband, Stephen Prokopenoff, was a museum director who collected art and music. He purchased this poster during a trip to Europe. The poster now hangs over the bulletin board inside the library entrance.
Fiddle-de-de During IAP

The first-ever fiddle jam session was held in the library on January 17. Organized by Lewis Music Library Reserves Assistant Cate Gallivan and Music Lecturer George Ruckert, the event drew nine MIT musicians playing fiddles, flutes, penny whistles, piccolo, recorder, mandolin, guitar, and piano. Traditional songs chosen from the Lewis Music Library's collection spanned the globe, starting in Ireland and the British Isles and ending in the American South with vocals for "Soldier's Joy" supplied by George Ruckert. The session also featured Lewis Music Library student assistant Carrie Keach on solo fiddle for the air "Neil Gow's Lament." Over twenty listeners dropped in throughout the session, where they browsed the library's new Guide to Finding Fiddle Music and tapped their toes while paging through traditional music on display.

MITSO CDs Available

David Epstein conducted the MIT Symphony Orchestra from the 1960s into the 1990s. Nearly all of these concerts were performed at Kresge Auditorium where most were recorded on reel-to-reel tape. In order to preserve these tapes and make them accessible, the Epstein family, former members of MITSO, and other donors generously contributed funding so that these recordings could be digitized and converted to compact disc. In addition to the audio work, the library hired a graphic artist who produced the CD packaging which includes copies of the original concert program covers along with the program notes and listing of performers. This has been a multi-year project which will be completed this semester.

All of the concerts have been cataloged in Barton, the MIT Libraries' catalog (http://libraries.mit.edu/barton). These CDs may be checked out of the library for three days to the MIT community. Over 65 concerts are now available and ready to circulate. A total of 72 concerts will be digitized once this project is completed. A single track from each CD is also being loaded onto our circulating iPods. We are pleased that this significant piece of MIT music history has been preserved for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Oral History Update

More oral history interviews have been held and much behind-the-scenes work has taken place since our last newsletter. Interviews of 15 subjects are now on compact disc and available for circulation. The list of interviews at http://libraries.mit.edu/music/oralhistory/index.html includes links to the Barton catalog records for those CDs. We are working on written transcripts of the interviews which will also be listed in Barton as they become available.

Arnold Judson (MIT B.S. Chemical Engineering 1947, MIT M.S. Organizational Behavior 1948) was interviewed on December 21, 2007. In addition to his formal training at MIT, he is also a pianist and composer. In the spring of 1947, he was the piano soloist in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.1 on the first MIT Symphony Orchestra (MITSO) concert to be conducted by Klaus Liepmann, MIT's first professor of music. He also played timpani in MITSO under its previous student conductor Antonio ("Tony") de Almeida who had a distinguished career as a conductor and musicologist. Mr. Judson also wrote the music for the 1947 MIT Tech Show A Liberal Life. While in graduate school at MIT, he studied composition with Walter Piston and went on to write piano, vocal and orchestral music. He continues to play piano and give recitals.

Former associate professor of music and MITSO conductor Dante Anzolini returned for a fourth interview on November 19, 2007. He spoke about conducting the orchestra, the joy of working with MIT students, and introducing contemporary repertoire to new audiences. He also discussed in depth the music of Charles Ives and Philip Glass. Currently, he is Music Director of the Teatro Argentino (Argentina) and principal guest conductor of the Linz Theater (Austria). In April 2008, he will conduct the Metropolitan Opera in Satyagraha by Philip Glass.

The Music at MIT Oral History Project is made possible through the generous funding of Lionel Kinney '53.
Bad Jokes

Q. How many clarinetists does it take to change a light bulb?
A. Only one, but he’ll go through a whole box of bulbs before he finds just the right one.

Q. How many bass players does it take to change a light bulb?
A. 1...4...5...5...1

Q. What’s another name for viola auditions?
A. Scratch lottery.

Conductor: “Basses, you are out of tune!”
1st Bass player: “But all my strings are equally tight!”
1st Violist: “You idiot, it’s not the tension; the pegs have to be parallel!”

Scan This!

With the acquisition of a large bed scanner, the Lewis Music Library reserves services have expanded to include scanning scores, articles, book chapters, and CD liner notes. These scanned materials have been added to music professors’ electronic reserve sites and are accessed by students via the web.

Did you know...?

Twelve years of MIT’s Tech Show dating from 1949–1963 have been reformatted from LP record to CD and are now available to be checked out. Go to Barton Advanced Search, set Format to CDs and use keywords Tech Shows. Thanks to the Class of 1982 for funding this project.
Donations (October 2007-February 2008)

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

Donations:
Pablo F. Albirth and Maria S. Sarmiento, Louis Alexander, Eric Banks, David J. Bondelevitch, Dr. Richard J. Breed (in memory of Mrs. Ruth Caryl Breed Licht), Molly G. Bright, Melissa J. Casteel, Carol Choi, Dr. Libby Cone, Tracy A. Embree, Dr. Sara P. Gaucher, Michael D. Good, Dr. Leon B. Groisser, Suzanne E. Hirschman, Eileen J. Huang, Dr. Jennifer A. Lloyd, Justin H. Lo, Peter D. Matthews, Jonathan D. Miller, MJ Miller, Dr. Sarah L. Minden, Jeffrey A. Morrow, Paul C. Paternoster, John and Gisele Parker, Alan W. Peeters, Seth A. Perlman, Kelley E. Rivoire, Lt. Col. Peter T. Rogers, Dr. Robert Sprich, Peter J. Wender.

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

Library Tours Available

Music libraries of today have changed drastically from those of 20 or even 10 years ago. A wealth of online resources have altered the ways in which we use a library. To catch up on some of the latest innovations, please contact Peter

Live Wires Rag (Inventions of Note sheet music collection)