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Southeast Chapter of the Music Library Association
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BREVE NOTES



Newsletter
Southeast Chapter
Music Library Association

No. 56

April 1999

The Davidson College Music Library

Introducing music librarians to a music library is like meeting someone from your hometown. The background and terrain are familiar, and there is a certain joy in learning about your neighbors, even if they are some distance away now. In many ways, the Davidson College music library is like a new neighbor. While in existence for years, it is only in the last few years that Davidson has moved into the SEMLA neighborhood. For those unfamiliar with Davidson, this article will serve to introduce you to the college and the music library. For all, I hope it will act as an invitation to learn more about Davidson.

The College

Davidson College is a small, selective liberal arts college, located 19 miles north of Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1837 by the Concord (NC) Presbytery, the college is named for General William Lee Davidson, who died in 1781 at the nearby Revolutionary War battle of Cowan's Ford. General Lee's son provided the initial acreage for the college campus. The college opened as a manual labor institute, meaning that students attending Davidson worked a set number of hours each day in addition to attending their classes. The original course offerings, typical for the time, included moral and natural philosophy, logic and mathematics. Although maintaining strong ties to the Presbyterian Church, the college has, from its inception, been intent on offering educational opportunities to students without regard to their religious denomination. The school was, of course, all male, until opening its doors to women in 1973.

Enrollment at the 450-acre, 76-building campus is 1,600 students; with 144 full-time faculty (98% of whom have doctorates or terminal degrees), the ratio of student FTE to faculty FTE is 10.8 to 1. The nearby, 106-acre "Lake Campus" on Lake Norman provides opportunities for sailing, swimming, water-skiing, and other activities. Always known to draw students from throughout the Southeast, Davidson in recent years has come to national prominence, and today has a truly national, and international, student

body. High rankings in prominent magazine surveys have reinforced this trend, as did last year's trip to the NCAA tournament by the Davidson basketball team. In sports, Davidson is one of the smallest schools to play in NCAA Division I.

Governing all student activities on campus is the Honor Code, which all students formally pledge to follow at the beginning of their Davidson career. Indications of the importance of the honor code to everyday life at Davidson are visible everywhere. For example, student exams are not proctored. Nor are there security gates in the campus libraries.



The Cunningham Fine Arts Building

The Music Department.

Music has always been important to the life of students at Davidson. But for the first hundred years of Davidson's existence, music activities were largely extracurricular. It was not until the late 1930s that music became an academic department offering courses for credit (ensembles still, to this day, are non-credit courses). In fact, in 1927, a position of "Director of Music and Associate Professor of the History and Appreciation of Fine Arts" was created, only to be discontinued four years later because "demand for such a department . . . has not been sufficient to justify its continuance." But in the late 1930s, with the coming of an energetic young musician named James Christian Pfohl, interest in music activities revived, and the department re-formed.

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SEMLA ladies enjoying the banquet in Los Angeles.

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1999 SEMLA conference Murfreesboro, TN

Thursday, October 21-Saturday, October 23

Hosted by the Center for Popular Music

Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN

Murfreesboro is located 35 miles southeast of Nashville.

The conference web page will be mounted by May 1 at:

<http://popmusic.mtsu.edu>

For more information, contact:

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Lois Kuyper-Rushing
Louisiana State
University

From the Chair...

Greetings to all of you who live in the Southeast, or who are interested in the goings-on of the music librarians in this region. It was wonderful seeing so many of you in Los Angeles recently, and thanks to all who attended our business meeting. I am so pleased that the national MLA body has deemed the chapters important enough to schedule time during the annual meeting for us to meet. WE'VE known we were that important all along--we've managed to meet at the national conference every year that I've been in the chapter!

We discussed several important things at our meeting. Mayo Taylor gave an update on our meeting this fall (October 21-23) at her institution, the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Anna Neal reminded us that she is the Program Chair this year and is looking for speakers for the fall meeting. MLA President-elect Paula Matthews stopped by for words of encouragement, and we heard from Allie Goudy who is the chair of the Outreach Subcommittee of the MLA Education Committee. Her subcommittee is charged with finding ways to offer educational opportunities at the chapter level (among other things). We discussed the possibility of applying for a chapter grant. We also talked about following up on Allie's suggestion of enlisting her help with a workshop for our next chapter meeting.



Lois toots her own horn at the MLA banquet (second from left).

We heard from Lynne Jaffe concerning the Treasurer's report and the Lost Sheep Campaign, and we heard from Ed Komara as chair of the Nominating Committee. Jennifer Ottervik gave a report on *Breve Notes*, and Bill Coscarelli spoke briefly about SEMLA-L (both are doing fine). Another topic of discussion was the 2000 SEMLA conference. The New Orleans crew and the Baton Rouge person (me!) each indicated a willingness to host the conference. I have just received a formal invitation from the New Orleans music librarians (more on that later!). You may actually read about it on SEMLA-L before receiving the newsletter. The meeting ended with us sharing some MLA wine that Laura Danker kindly brought to the meeting, a look at pictures of Lynne Jaffe's baby, Leo, and lots of conversation and reuniting. It is great to have such a wonderful group of people to work with, and I'm glad to be part of this great Southern region!

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Davidson College Music Library*continued from page 1*

The music faculty today comprises six full-time faculty, four studio teaching associates (half-time or more) and a number of others giving private instruction. The department's offerings, beyond the usual survey and theory courses, include classes in film music, American music, Latin-American music, music of Asia, electronic music, and song writing. As is typical of many liberal arts colleges, the number of music majors is small (5-10), but the number of students enrolled in music classes, ensembles, and lessons is significant. Ensembles offered include choirs, wind ensemble, orchestra, and jazz band. Approximately 10% of the student body is involved in performing ensembles.

The music department is housed with the theatre department in the Cunningham Fine Arts Building. The building, at one end of the original quadrangle of the college, was completed in 1961. Actually, the music department is housed in three other buildings as well as in Cunningham. Practice rooms and studios are housed in historic buildings on the quad, including two of the original (small!) dormitories on campus. The music library is in the Cunningham Fine Arts Building.

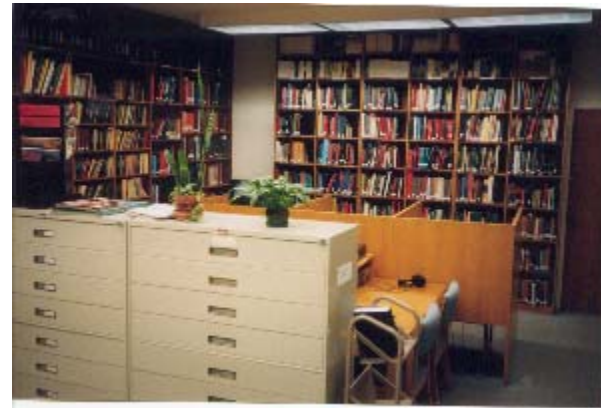
The College Library

The Davidson College library collection contains over 445,000 volumes, over 2,000 periodical subscriptions, and 100 daily newspapers, and has a materials budget of \$1.5 million. It is a partial government depository, comprising over 100,000 documents. The staff of twenty-eight includes ten full-time librarians (including the music librarian) and one part-time professional. Davidson is a member of the Oberlin Group, an association of seventy-six libraries at liberal arts colleges with high academic standards.

The Music Library

Like many such libraries, the music library at Davidson College began as a small departmental library. The exact history seems to be veiled by the mists of time. In one external review, done in 1942, soon after the department was established, it is noted that "a modest start has been made in the collection of books [on music]" in the college library. But it also notes that the music department of the time has "the Carnegie set of records, scores and books—one of the most valuable items that a liberal arts college can have for the proper conduct of nonprofessional courses in music." It seems that the books and scores of this collection have been subsumed into the growing collection over the years. But the 78-rpm recordings still reside in a closet in the music department, in a beautiful cabinet.

Whatever the history, it is clear that when the Cunningham Fine Arts Building was completed, it included (with the aid of a small grant from the Presser Foundation), a "record library." Most accounts seem to indicate that this facility was composed of banks of rather utilitarian-looking metal listening stations, with shelving for scores (primarily study scores), and a few books and periodicals. Fifteen students could listen at one time. Approximately ten years ago, the Presser Music Library was renovated into a much more user-friendly space, with new furniture, carpeting, and new listening equipment. The renovated space contained only seven listening stations, but included space for study.



About the same time, discussions began to be held about the main college library taking over management of the music library. The collection had grown to the point where it needed a full-time professional to oversee its operations. Further impetus was added when an outside review suggested hiring a music librarian. Shortly thereafter, in spring 1994, a search was held and a music librarian hired.

The music librarian oversees all music library operations. He catalogs the music materials for the college library, assists faculty with acquisitions, provides reference service (including hours at the main library) and bibliographic instruction. He also supervises the eleven student assistants working in the library, and maintains the reserve and circulation services.

Today, the music library itself is two rooms, totaling about 624 square feet. The main listening room now includes nine listening stations. Spread among those nine stations are two VCRs, eight compact disc players, three turntables, seven cassette tape players, and one digital audio tape player. The public terminal, as well as a study table that seats four, is also in this room. Three of the four walls are lined with shelving. The adjoining public services area contains the reserves, circulation desk, and the librarian's desk. Technical service functions take place in this room also, with two workstations available.



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Davidson students (l-r): Chris Gyves, Aaron Leshner, Cary Phelps, and Megan Druessedow (daughter of SEMLA member John Druessedow).

The music library is largely a reference collection. Materials circulate only to faculty and to students who are making class presentations. The collection contains a total of 12,000 volumes. It is still primarily a listening facility, with the main library housing most of the books (about 6,000 music books there), all the periodicals, and some scores (primarily complete works and standing orders). While the music library does hold 200 videos, most videotapes and viewing equipment are in Instructional Support Services, in the main academic building.

Taking over a library that has not had the guidance of a professional librarian could be a nightmare. Fortunately, the music department had worked very hard over the years to create a quality library, and everything was well organized and maintained. None of the scores were bound, but they were classed in a modified LC classification. Books, like the collection in the main library, were classed in Dewey. Much of the card catalog had already been converted into online form by the library some years earlier.

Opportunities and Challenges

The past five years have been busy ones in the music library. The holdings have largely (95%) been entered into the online catalog, and great progress has been made in protecting the scores through commercial and in-house binding. The facility has been restructured so that more shelf space is available, traffic flows easier, and the number of entrances to the library has been reduced from four to two (one at night). The modified LC classification, which consisted of a simplified class number, a composer's name, and an accession number, is being converted to a standard LC format. This last fact alone is indicative of the support and flexibility that the college library has shown throughout the past five years. Davidson's collection is classed in Dewey; even the books in the music library have Dewey call numbers. Yet, after hearing a proposal from the music librarian, the main library was willing to allow the score collection to remain in LC. No small concession by an administration that is frequently asked "Why Dewey?!!!"

The process of merging the music library into the organization and culture of the main library has been a fascinating one. It was an educational process for both the library and the music department, as two very different cultures intersected at the music library. Space does not permit a full recounting here (perhaps at some future SEMLA meeting??), but the success of the process—and it is a success—is due in no small part to the dedication of all parties to having a quality music library.

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How do I get there?
 Exit 30, on I-77 to Davidson, NC

Hours of operation:
 (during classes)
 Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am-5:00 pm
 7:00 pm-12:00 am
 Fri. 9:00 am-5:00 pm
 Sat. 1:30 pm-4:30 pm
 Sun. 1:30 pm-4:30 pm
 7:00 pm-12:00 am

(summers)
 Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am-5:00 pm
 Sat.-Sun. Closed

Library size: 624 square feet
 (2 rooms)

OCLC symbol: NNM
 OPAC: DRA

Holdings (Music Library only):
 Books: 925
 Scores: 4,530
 Cassettes: 1,300
 LPs: 2,572
 CDs: 1,905
 DATS: 150

Member News

Sarah Adams (University of South Carolina) was a recipient of the 1999 Kevin Freeman Travel Grant. This award enabled Sarah to travel to Los Angeles to attend her first MLA meeting.

**New Members**

Jean Finks has been a librarian since 1976 and has had a variety of library work experiences. In academic libraries this has included cataloger (monographs, scores, sound recordings, video recordings), general reference, bibliographic instruction in many subject areas, cataloging instructor in a Master of Education program, and collection development and liaison with the art, music, theatre, and language departments. She has also served in two special libraries, one in engineering, and one in law, in which it was necessary to do the full range of library services "solo." She says: "I'm finally back to my intended career path as a full-time music librarian at Stetson and having a wonderful time!"

Christie Hagen is the new music librarian at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. She received her M.L.S. from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She is currently working on a Master of Music in musicology at the University of Memphis. Prior to this position she was a librarian for the Memphis/Shelby County Library and Information Center; she was also Manager of Information Services for a private consulting firm in Memphis.

Tina Murdock is Assistant Music Librarian and Instructor of Music and English at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She also is currently pursuing an MLIS degree at Louisiana State University. Before moving to New Orleans last summer she was Assistant Professor of Music and English at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Kentucky.

In June, **Laurel Whisler** joins the Furman University faculty as Music Librarian in the Music Library of the Robert J. Maxwell Music Media Center. Laurel is currently a Reference Librarian at Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana, where she helped develop the library instruction program and outreach to faculty. Laurel's M.L.S. is from Indiana University, where she also completed internships in cataloging musical scores and music reference at the Cook Music Library. Her M.A. in Music was earned at the Pennsylvania State University where she completed an edition of a Telemann Passion oratorio.

Daniel Zager began his work as Music Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in January. Previously, he was Associate Professor of Church Music and Music History at Concordia University (River Forest, IL) and, for ten years, Conservatory Librarian and Lecturer in Musicology at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He recently completed a term as member-at-large on the MLA Board of Directors and from 1992-97 served as editor of *Notes*.

WELCOME TO ALL OF THE NEW SEMLA MEMBERS!

Do you wish to receive *Breve Notes* at a different address? If so, please send your request to:

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