BREVE NOTES

Newsletter
Southeast Chapter
Music Library Association

No. 127

January 2025



FURMAN UNIVERSITY

2024 SEMLA Annual Meeting

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The Southeast Chapter of the Music Library Association, Inc. (SEMLA), is a non-stock, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the establishment, use, and growth of music libraries and collections of music materials in the Southeast. It encourages communication and cooperation with libraries and music collections not affiliated with the Music Library Association to determine how the Chapter may be of assistance to the individual library. SEMLA provides a forum for the exchange of ideas regarding all aspects of work with music materials as well as initiating and encouraging activities to improve the organization, administration, holdings, and public services of such libraries and collections. The region covered by the Chapter includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Membership Information

Membership in SEMLA is available at three levels:

Regular ($15.00 U.S.)
Institutional ($20.00 U.S.)
Student/Retired ($5.00 U.S.).

Dues are collected through the Music Library Association website at https://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/page/JoinMLA.

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If you have questions, contact:
Amanda Scott
SEMLA Secretary/Treasurer
amanda.scott@mtsu.edu

SEMLA Web Site

https://semla.wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/
Enrique Caboverde, Web Editor
ecabover@fiu.edu

Breve Notes (Newsletter)

Kate Linton, Editor
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Kate Linton: kathryn.a.shepas@vanderbilt.edu

SEMLA-L

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From the Chair

Grover Baker
Middle Tennessee State University


Szymanski

2025! We're still half a millennium away from being "In the Year 2525" (Zager and Evans, 1969), but 2025 certainly seemed a long way off when I was a senior in high school. Of course, that was almost half a century ago! Lord, I'm getting old! 😎

It was wonderful getting to see many of you at our SEMLA Annual Meeting, hosted so artfully by Patricia Sasser, Alyssa Nance, and Madeline Eastergard at Furman University. You'll find reports and photos from the meeting throughout this issue. Hopefully, they'll help you relive the event or inspire you to attend our meeting this fall at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Between now and then, I hope to see many of you online during MLA's virtual conference in March.

The final quarter of 2024 provided more than its share of natural disasters, tragedy, sorrow, disappointment, drama, and anxiety. In fact, one of the most personally tragic experiences I've ever encountered occurred on the Monday after I returned from Furman, when a student took her own life in the atrium of MTSU's Walker Library, where I work. Our University President immediately cancelled classes for the remainder of Monday and all of Tuesday. The library was also closed Wednesday. The university held a candlelight vigil in front of the library that Wednesday evening. It was an emotional, meaningful, and therapeutic event with around 2,000 in attendance.

Normally, after work on Wednesdays, I make the hour-or-more drive from Murfreesboro to my church in Nashville for our brass ensemble rehearsal, which is followed by choir rehearsal. By the time the vigil had ended, it was too late for me to make it to Brass, but I decided to go ahead and drive into Nashville for choir rehearsal, even though I knew I'd be late. Lauren, my wife (who teaches elementary music and is a wonderful musician!), had encouraged me to go home and take that time for myself, instead of driving all the way into Nashville. By that time, though, I'd been sitting at home by myself for most of the previous two days, and I was tired of doing that. So, I went to choir. Ironically, it was our last rehearsal for a Requiem that the choir and guest instrumentalists would be performing the following Sunday morning for our All Saints' Day service. Singing those texts and making music with others was precisely what I needed! It provided a balm for my soul.

The reason we do what we do is to assist others with their endeavors to make and enjoy music. Don't forget to take time for your own musicmaking!



SEMLA 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 24–26 FURMAN UNIVERSITY

Kate Linton, Vanderbilt University

The hybrid 2024 annual meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the Music Library Association was held October 24-26 on the campus of Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina and Zoom. The opening reception took place in the Pitts Room located in the James B. Duke Library. The conference sessions were held in the Daniel Music Building in the Daniel Recital Hall. I attempt to write the annual meeting report with having lost my notes. The details of each presentation should not reflect on the presenters' execution and amount of detail, rather my lack of remembering and ability to follow up with a report in a timely manner.

The beauty of nature surrounding Furman University's campus set the stage for a wonderful conference. The opening reception in a room filled with stain-glass windows,

see *Annual Meeting* — continued on **page 5**

Annual Meeting — continued from **page 4**

hors d'oeuvres, and light refreshments allowed SEMLA members to catch-up and new members and first-time attendees to meet new colleagues. Attendees walked up a short flight of stairs to enjoy the "Medieval Manuscripts: Treasures from Furman's Collections" exhibit, including the Book of Hours, missals, songbooks, and other works. Laughter and fun were had by all. A group even closed the reception down *(see photo to the right)*.



Other memorable moments include Dr. Jeff Makala's tour of Special Collections and University Archives where he gave an informative overview of music related collections including the American Festival of Microtonal Music (AFMM) collection and the Medieval Manuscripts exhibit. Some chose to walk the campus for lunch toward the Furman Bell Tower Carillon. Folks scaled the spiral staircase and took in the lake and colorful fall weather.

Dr. Caroline Mills, Director of Furman Libraries, opened the morning by welcoming SEMLA to both the library and Furman's campus and acknowledged the great work of Patricia Sasser and Alyssa Nance for organizing the conference.



Peter Shirts and Sofia Slutskaya of Emory University began the conference with their presentation "'Don't Keep Me Waiting Here': The LP Backlog Cataloging Project." Shirts explained the backlog of LPs and the process created with Slutskaya's department to catalog check and finally make the LPs accessible. Slutskaya, joining from Zoom, addressed the cataloging side to the LP project. Shirts uses the LPs and turntables in course instruction.



In "Why Don't You Just Digitize All Your Stuff," Greg Johnson and Katherine Tutor from the University of Mississippi shared their audiovisual digitize project of recordings related to the blues, Southern folk music, Mississippi musicians, and more. Tutor, the project coordinator, went over the logistics, working with an outside vendor and graduate assistants to complete the project. Audio clips were a key part to the presentation highlighting the musical depth of the collection, and they adroitly improvised to handle the technical difficulties by using the lapel mic to play the selections from the laptop speakers.





Following the break, Holling Smith-Borne and Kate Linton from Vanderbilt University spoke from a manager and job seeker perspective in "Hiring Challenges: A Way Forward for Hiring Managers and Job Seekers." Smith-Borne began with his

see ***Annual Meeting*** — continued on **page 6**

Annual Meeting — continued from **page 5**

experience of hiring challenges in the current job market and his expectations as a hiring manager. Linton shared the job seeker point-of-view, how candidates can prepare, and the realizations of the hiring manager/job seeker dynamic that came from the many conversations in preparation for the conference. This sparked great discussion on both Padlet and in-person with questions from current job seekers and SEMLA members that have been hiring managers.

Laura Gayle Green led her first presentation alongside colleague Sarah Cohen from Florida State University. Their presentation, "Delaying Donation Decisions: Let the Patrons Decide," was well presented with findings that could help other librarians. Unfortunately, I could not find my notes for this presentation and provide more information.



A longer break followed this presentation. Attendees enjoyed lunch on their own or attended the optional Furman Bell Tower & Carillon & Manifest Tour.

"Music Librarians Teaching Graduate Music Bibliography: Changes, Challenges, and ChatGPT," a panel discussion by Laura Gayle Green, Florida State University, Christopher Bruhn, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Gary Boye, Appalachian State University, and Ana Dubnjakovic, University of South Carolina was the final presentation of the day. Laura led the discussion with prepared questions for her colleagues. Each librarian spoke to their specific student population and graduate classes. One spoke to incorporating the performance aspect into the Music Bibliography course and how that can differ from the standard musicology-based curriculum. AI and Chat GPT was addressed in ways that students are using them in the classroom.

To end the day, the group walked from the Daniel Music Building to the James B. Duke Library for a tour of Furman University's Special Collection and University Archives. This was led by Dr. Jeff Makala, Associate Director for Special Collections and University Archives. Following the tour, attendees were invited to the SEMLA Banquet in the Atrium of the James B. Duke Library where they built-their-own-ramen! Grover Baker, Chair of SEMLA, gave a tribute to Neil and Marty Hughes and the generous donation from Marty to make the banquet possible.

The second day of presentations began with "'The Library's Responsibility Towards National Music:' The Western Canon, Americanism, and Segregation in Music Collections in the Early 20th Century" by Veronica Wells of Appalachian State University. Wells addressed collection development and the making of the Western Canon in academic libraries through a literature review where she found elitism and canonical beginnings among the first academic music collections. Library collections were also found to be segregated as Wells explained her findings of collection development in predominantly Black and African American libraries as opposed to predominantly White academic libraries.

The final presentation "A New Process for Getting Involved in MLA's Committees and Subcommittees" by Sonia Archer-Capuzzo of University of North Carolina Greensboro shared an update for MLA's Committee and Subcommittee process. Interested members can now submit an interest and placement form to encourage members to get involved and hopefully lessen the fear and process of contacting the committee chair to express interest.

The weekend concluded with Grover Baker calling the business meeting to order with his gavel with Secretary-Treasurer Amanda Scott to his right. As the meeting concluded, goodbyes were said and all expressed that they would see everyone on Zoom for MLA 2025. Many thanks to the Furman University hosts, Patricia Sasser and Alyssa Nance and the all who contributed to a successful and memorable conference, especially Elizabeth Uchimura, Christia Thomason, and Rebecca Shaw!

Music in Libraries: Just the Basics

Preconference Workshop

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Make it a dozen! October 24, 2024 marked the twelfth time SEMLA has hosted its *Music in Libraries: Just the Basics* day-long workshop. As usual, four 3-hour workshops were offered, focusing on cataloging scores, cataloging video recordings, music collection development, and music reference. Attendees could choose one of two morning sessions and one of two afternoon sessions, but for the first time, the option to attend a single session during the day (at a reduced rate) was offered. This option was suggested by previous attendees during the evaluation session which wrap up each year's workshop. One person took advantage of this option, while nine others attended the full day's activities, for a total of 10 attendees. As you would expect, the majority of folks were from South Carolina, but North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee were also represented. Experience levels were varied and included current librarians and staff from both public and academic libraries, as well as graduate students pursuing their library degrees and one recent graduate looking to improve their skills as they entered the profession.

This year's instructors were:

Sonia Archer-Capuzzo (University of North Carolina – Greensboro)
Grover Baker (Middle Tennessee State University)
Chris Durman (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
Keith Knop (University of Georgia)
Holling Smith-Borne (Vanderbilt University)
Laura Williams (Duke University)

In addition to the instructors listed above, the preconference could not have been delivered without the tremendous assistance provided by the Local Arrangements team at Furman, consisting of Patricia Sasser, Alyssa Nance, and Madeline Eastergard. Thank you, Ladies!

We'll look forward to making it a baker's dozen this coming October at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts!

Grover Baker
Middle Tennessee State University



Pauline Shaw Bayne Travel Grant Winners

Past Chair Laura Williams announced the 2024 recipients of the Pauline Shaw Bayne Travel Grant. The winners were Lauren Lundy, graduate library student at the University of Denver, Lian Warner: graduate of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee at Instruction Librarian at North Greenville University. Thank you to the Travel Grants Committee, Chris Durman, Alison Nikitopoulos, and Shelley Rogers!

(Pictured to the right are Lian Warner and Lauren Lundy.)



Election Results

Christia Thomason announced the results of the election for Chair Elect-Vice Chair and Member-at-Large. The incoming Chair Elect-Vice Chair will be Peter Shirts. The incoming Member-at-Large will be Joel Roberts. Thank you to the committee members Jacob Mauldwin, Jennifer Martin, and ex-officio Amanda Scott.





Peter Shirts and Joel Roberts

SEMLA 2024






"Why Don't You Just Digitize All Your Stuff?"


EXIT





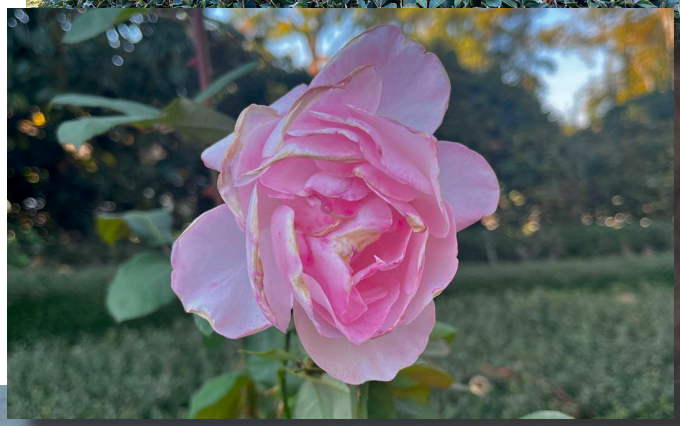

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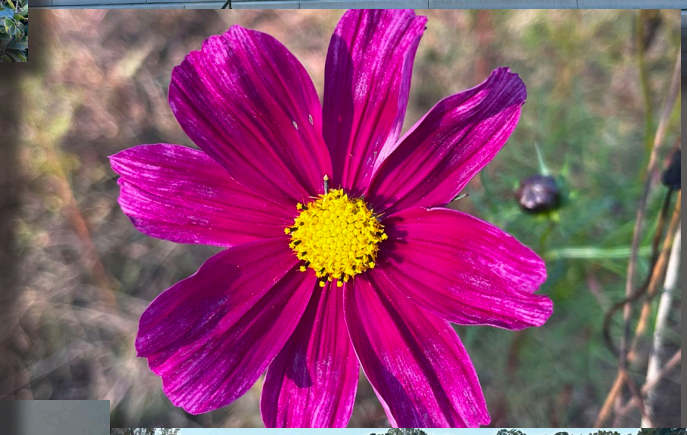

"Don't Keep Me Waiting Here"
The LP Backlog Cataloging Project

Furman University Campus

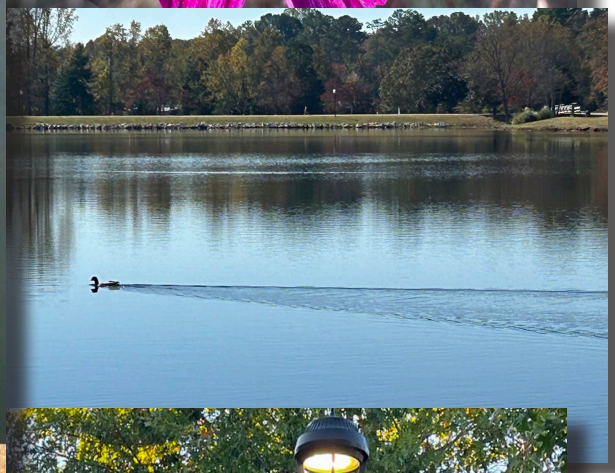








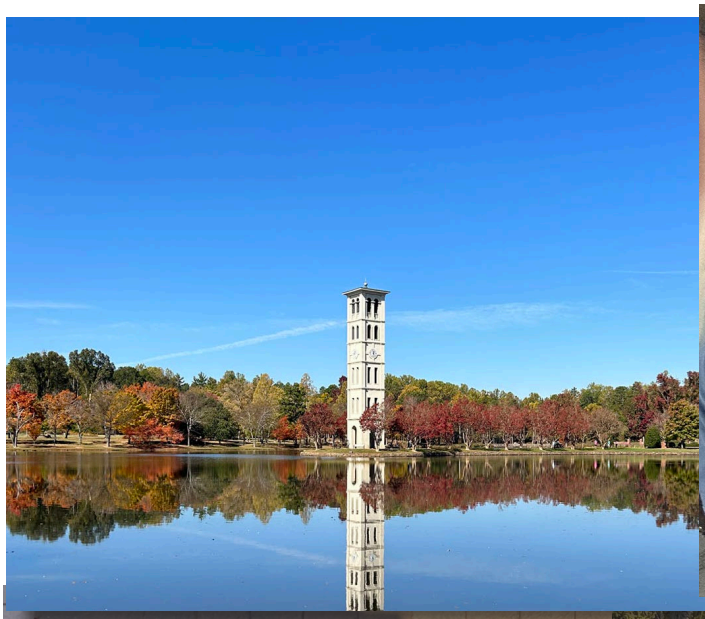








Bell Tower Carillon









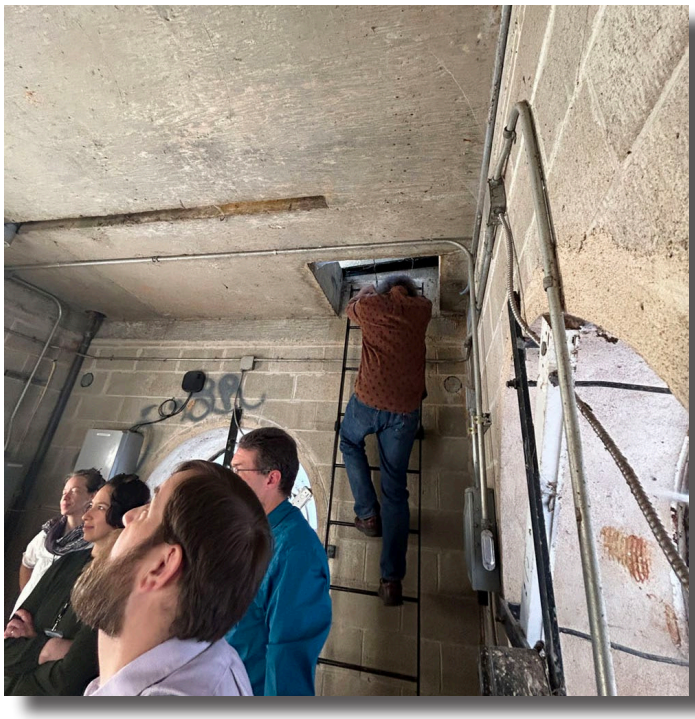




Bell Tower Carillon

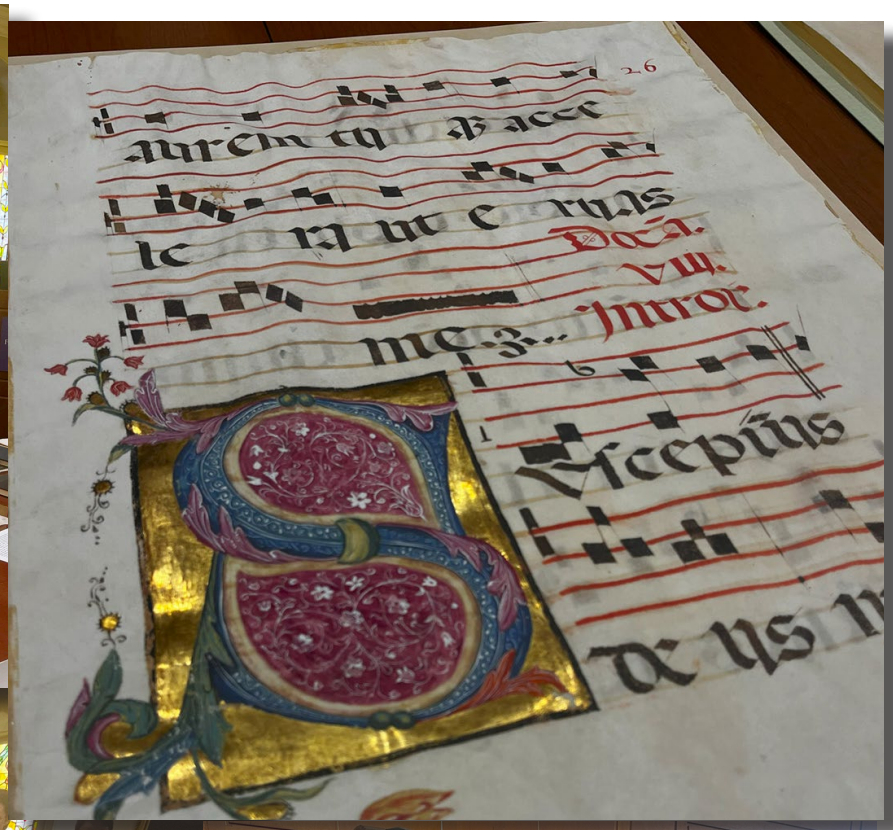






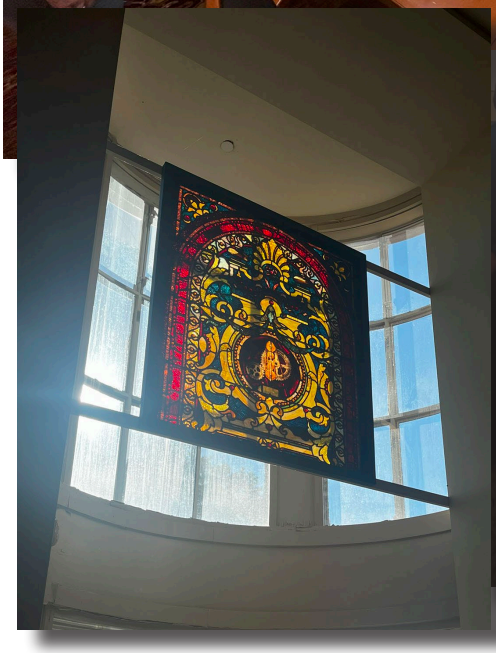
Special Collections Tour

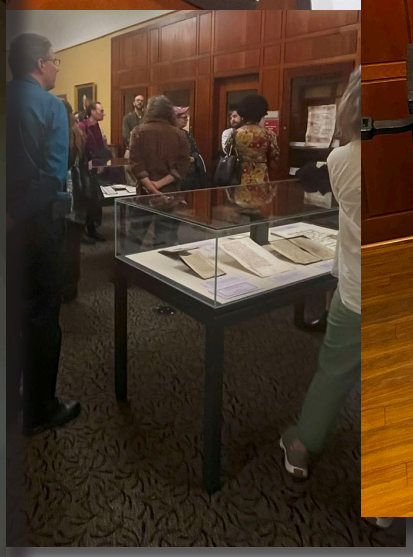












Banquet









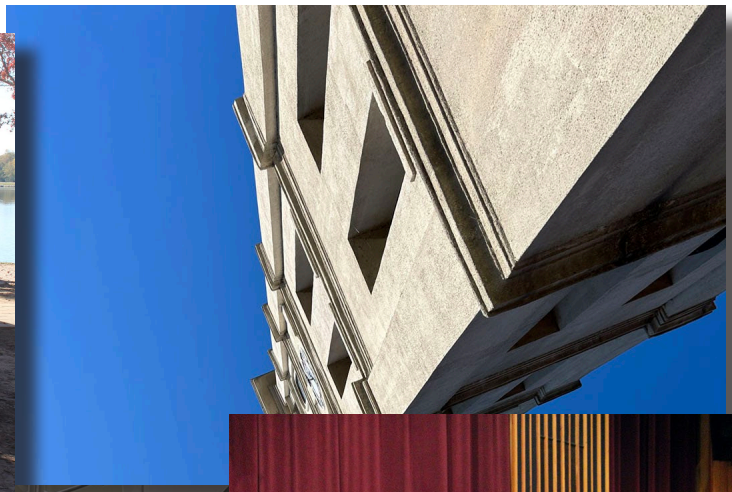


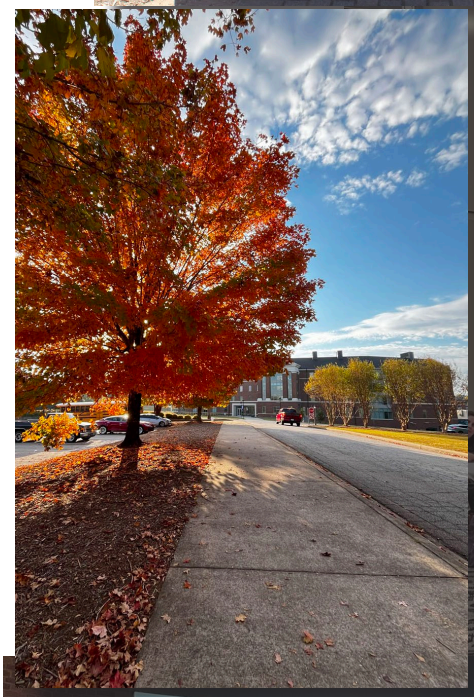


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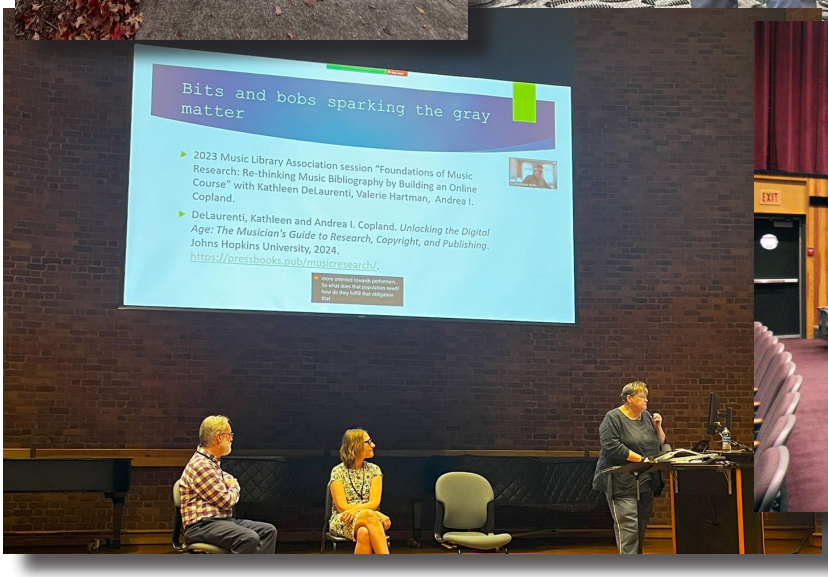














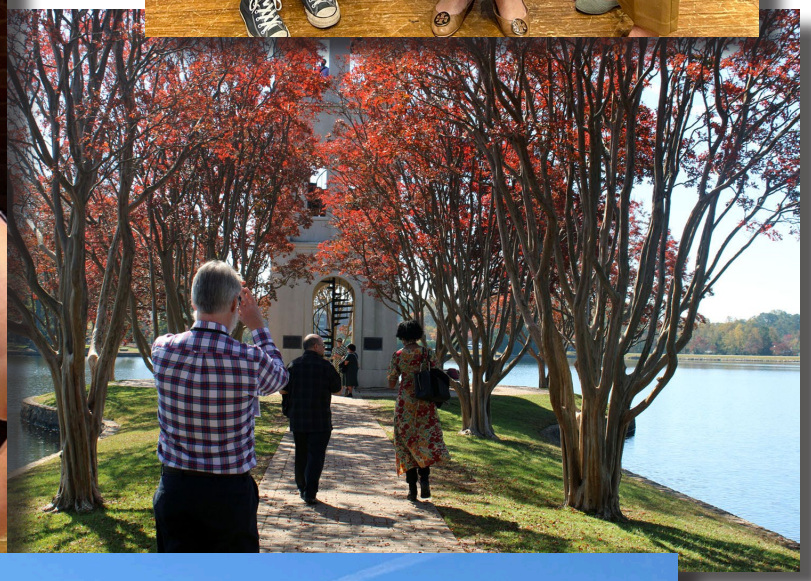
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SEMLA 2024











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SAVE THE DATE

SEMLA at UNCSA October 23-25, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

SEMLA 2025 Annual Meeting will be held October 23-25 in Winston-Salem, NC at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. We'll be meeting jointly with our colleagues from the Atlantic Chapter and we look forward to seeing you all in Winston-Salem.



UNCSA, https://www.uncsa.edu/current-students/guide/resources.aspx

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First Time Attendees



First-Time Attendees — (l-r) *Kat Burgess, Lauren Lundy, Veronica Wells*

As I sit in the airport on the way home from SEMLA 2024, I reflect on the excellent presentations and people I got to encounter while there. To say my heart is full is an understatement. The process of becoming a music librarian has been a long and fraught journey, and I did not realize how little hope I had left until that hope was restored by meeting and learning from all of you. I am especially grateful to the travel grant committee who granted me funds from the Pauline Shaw Bayne Travel Grant.

The most valuable part of this experience was getting to see face-to-face the people behind the institutions I aspire to work at. So many of you gave practical and helpful advice on how to reach out to hiring directors and strategies for the job search. I am truly so grateful for the wonderful reception and willingness to give advice. I feel far more confident in my job search having experienced SEMLA 2024. I would be remiss not to mention the fabulous presentation given by my mentors, Kate Linton and Holling Smith-Borne. Their presentation on demystifying the search process was incredibly validating and helpful to where I am in the process. Every presentation was incredibly well-prepared and spoke to the hands-on education I had lacked in my virtual MLIS education.

Every moment of SEMLA 2024 was magical. The campus was gorgeous and gave me the taste of fall I sorely miss living in Orlando. The hospitality was next level, the facilities were impressive, and the company was unmatched. I know this is just the beginning of my journey with SEMLA. I am so excited to continue my journey in music librarianship with all of your help, and I am so grateful for each of your contributions that made this experience possible.

Lauren Lundy

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Somehow, despite attending my first 2024 SEMLA chapter meeting virtually, I felt both welcome and energized. I had the day off on Friday, and I'll admit I did a little bit of cooking during the introductions and breaks. Presentations had my full attention, though. Even though I work at a public library, there were useful tidbits in every talk. For example, we have LPs sitting in boxes (who doesn't?) in the Baton Rouge Room archives. I was super appreciative of the very practical

see ***First Time Attendees*** — continued on **page 19**

First Time Attendees — continued from **page 18**

analysis of cataloging and circulation done by Peter Shirts and Sofia Slutskaya. In addition, as a second-career librarian with a very old musicology degree and a very new library degree, I found the discussion of hiring practices both from a job seeker and a hiring manager most relevant and interesting.

On Saturday morning, I had to facilitate my books and music program for children but decided to see if I could listen to Veronica Wells's presentation in the car on the way to the library. I found myself utterly rapt. Having done some critical analysis of music collection development policies during library school, I discovered that many of my findings were clearly rooted in the structures and language unearthed by Wells's archival research. While I was disappointed not to attend the banquet and see the carillon in person, and technical difficulties made it difficult to hear from time to time, my SEMLA experience gave me lots of ideas for projects and participation in the future.

Alison Nikitopoulos

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Virtual Attendee Experience

To Be or Not to Be …. (There).

Deborah Morris

That is the question, or perhaps the dilemma. This largely depends on one's perspective, which I volunteered to share mine with all of you. I'm sure most of us would rather attend a conference in person, but there are several reasons one may choose to attend virtually. Lack of funds is likely at the top of the list. Other reasons include illness (remember the plague?), wonky weather situations causing travel issues, or that wild boar, cow, and/or alligator blocking the door preventing escape. You know, I think that last one is actually possible in Arkansas. Who would've thought? After all, I'm originally from snowman land where a blizzard can strike in late October instead of a hurricane. Ouch.

For myself, one of the best things about virtual attendance is attending from the comfort of the home "office" instead of the workplace. I have done both and I can say that my focus improves when I'm not being distracted by what I hear going on outside the walls of my office. I will never forget the day one poor student sent out a pathetic wail when he lost his paper to cyberspace, and it was due within the hour. Besides fire, I don't think anything will send us flying out of our offices faster than a student in distress. When at home I have my favorite coffee (this is a must!),

see *Virtual Attendee Experience* — continued on **page 20**

Virtual Attendee Experience — continued from **page 19**

snacks, comfy chair, dimmed lighting (I really hate those fluorescent lights in the office), and maybe a scented candle or two flickering close by. I always have a notebook and pens ready because I'm old fashioned enough to not type and attend at the same time. But hey, I did use my phone to take a few pictures. Does that count as professional tech progression? Oh, and sweats. Definitely sweats and a t-shirt. Make sure that shirt is presentable because you never know when you may have to turn on that camera.

Having attended a SEMLA conference both virtually and personally I can attest to the growth in attention given to the virtual attendees over the past few years. Looking over my notes, I can see my first comment, "Yay! tech was set up and ready to go!" Questions over chat were never ignored nor even left unacknowledged for very long. There were even some questions asked of the virtual attendees by the chat monitors ensuring we could hear the presenters. Yes, there were chat monitors! This is a relatively new thing in the world of virtual attendance, not necessarily SEMLA. I remember, in the not-so-distant past, as a virtual attendee, being ignored until the end of a session. SELMA has made great strides improving the virtual attendance experience. The best part was how quickly adjustments were made to fix any problems that came up.

Picking up the camera (laptop?) and panning the audience and the entire room when the question-and-answer periods began so that virtual attendees could see where we were and who was asking or answering the questions was really nice. This made me feel like I was in the room rather than on the outside looking in. And then when you took us on the tour of the special collections and then walked around the table with the camera to show us the collection—that was amazing. This might be ranked as above and beyond the call of duty. The camera people were fabulous! Thank you so much for doing that.

So, are there improvements needed? Well, as always, technology can fail us and usually does in the most inopportune times. During ours, microphones weren't adjusted to the different speakers; sometimes recordings weren't able to be heard and there was an occasional view of the ceiling or curtain or floor…For the most part, I think the technology issues were minimal at the SEMLA end of the conference. Big YAY here! But on my end, my machine was throwing an occasional death rattle, and I had to be careful where the curser was placed to stop that nasty noise. I had a good internet connection, there weren't any power interruptions, and I even remembered to turn off my phone's ringer.

A disappointment that is unavoidable when in virtual attendance is not being able to attend the social part of things, going out to dinner with colleagues, attending the jazz ensemble concert, etc. Overall, I enjoyed the conference. I thought the virtual side of the meeting went quite well despite the little things that happened that we can always tuck away on our list of what to do or not do next time around. My hat is off to the monitors who carried us around and made sure we were included throughout. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Remembering Shirley Watts

Robert Rich, Vanderbilt University

Shirley Marie Watts

August 1, 1935 — October 21, 2024

Shirley Marie Watts, former Director of the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library at Vanderbilt University and one of the founding members of SEMLA, passed away October 21, 2024. During her 43 years as director (1957-2000), she adapted to many transitions in the library world. When she began, the card catalog was in drawers upon drawers full of index-sized cards of



bibliographic records about which she commented once, "one recording alone can require 50 card-catalog entries"!! Later, she pivoted through 2 different iterations of an ILS, not to mention the advent of computers, the internet, new media formats, electronic books and databases, and social media. Additionally, in 1985, she orchestrated the move of the music library to the Blair School of Music from what was then known as the S-R building (Social-Religious) on the Peabody campus, now called the Joe B. Wyatt Center. At that time, the collection included 24,000 books, scores, and bound periodicals, 95 journals, and 11,000 sound recordings. She and her small staff managed to move and shelve everything within 2 days!

After her retirement, she moved into Richland Place in 2013, where she continued her passion and oversaw collection development for their library. Her bio upon entering Richland states:

> "It was a musical family that immersed her from the beginning in Kannapolis, North Carolina. Her father was a music director of several different churches, a member of a quartet and other groups too. Shirley was the accompanist for her high school choral group and for many church groups. She remembers playing for many weddings, funerals and even from the back of a pick-up truck once for a summer revival"
>
> Two chairs occupy important places in her apartment: a chair used by Roy Harris, a well-known American composer, who taught at Peabody for a couple of years, and a Vanderbilt chair commemorating 25 years on the faculty, an honor treasured by academics.

Shirley will be remembered for her resolute devotion to Peabody, her utmost dedication to the development of the music library, and her keen support of Vanderbilt's basketball team and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Below, are links to her obituaries:

https://www.nashvillecremationcenter.com/obituaries/shirley-watts

https://www.tennessean.com/obituaries/pokr0989138

Hurricane Helene Hits the Southeast

Hurricane Helene left the Southeast with fatalities and disastrous damages to towns, cities, homes, and universities. Members from our SEMLA chapter were affected by the storm's path and have shared their experiences with us documenting this catastrophic event.

On Thursday morning, September 26th, Appalachian State University officials announced an emergency weather closure beginning at 12:15 P.M. Hurricane Helene was making landfall in the Big Bend region of Florida and computer guidance models sent its track straight through Georgia and near the mountains of western North Carolina. I taught a 10 o'clock graduate seminar that morning and, having a long-term interest in local history, showed my students some of the photos from an earlier hurricane that damaged the area in 1940. I wasn't predicting what would happen, but I did want the students to know it had happened before in the mountains and should be taken seriously. There were major floods in the Boone area in 1916, 1940 and 1989, all caused by hurricanes or hurricane remnants. That afternoon, many App State students returned not to their dorm rooms or apartments, but to their families across the state and region. Little did we imagine that the University would not fully re-open again until October 16th, almost three weeks later.

The thing that people forget about Helene is that we had four days of hard rain completely unrelated to the tropical weather, *before the storm even hit*. Where I live in Blowing Rock, 8 miles south of Boone, we had 3" of rain each day from September 23-26. Twelve inches of rain would have caused problems all by itself; add around 18" of additional rain from the hurricane and there is no wonder there was an historic flood. The path when Helene hit Florida moved it right through Atlanta and up into the Knoxville, Tennessee area, just to the west of us—we thought perhaps it might even miss us completely. But throughout Thursday, the line kept being moved to the east, until eventually it was going right through Asheville, North Carolina (and Boone beyond that).



Globe Road the day after the storm hit: almost washed out, but a few neighbors came by with shovels and cleared the culverts and smoothed things out (the DOT took another couple of weeks to get to us).



The Glen Burney Trail in Blowing Rock: the trail used to continue up the hillside to the right, but Helene washed the trail away, scouring the creek down to rubble.

see ***Hurricane Helene*** — continued on **page 23**

Hurricane Helene — continued from **page 22**



One of the roads below our house was completely washed out--only downed trees cross where before there were three large culverts and a bridge.

Back at home, the wind and rain picked up Friday morning and around 9 A.M. the power pole in the backyard jerked back suddenly and the power was off. We later learned that the pole downhill from us had snapped in two when a tree fell across the line. It would be 8 days before the power was back up--beating my old record of 7 days when Hurricane Fran hit Durham in 1996. And once again the house was on a well, so no power meant no water.



Helene's orphans: King, Emmy Lou, Willie and Saffi.

Overall, we were lucky: our 106-year-old house was unscathed, only a few trees down in the woods around us. Best of all, we were able to drive out almost immediately, and the village of Blowing Rock, amazingly, had power the whole time. Restaurants, grocery stores and gas stations were all available, but the nights were long, dark, and boring. The hardest part was living in the middle of a natural disaster but having almost no news of the outside world—no cell service, no internet, no TV. We soon talked to all of our neighbors—some we hadn't seen in years—and rumors were flying: Asheville was in ruins, it might take months to get the power back up, specific local businesses were completely destroyed, etc. etc. I would later learn that some of this was true and some not so true, but time passed, and we had good news about some places and bad news about others (like Asheville). The University suffered a bit of water damage, although the libraries were unscathed.



Below the bridge: the creek took an entirely different course through the woods for about 300 yards, leaving the culverts high and dry.

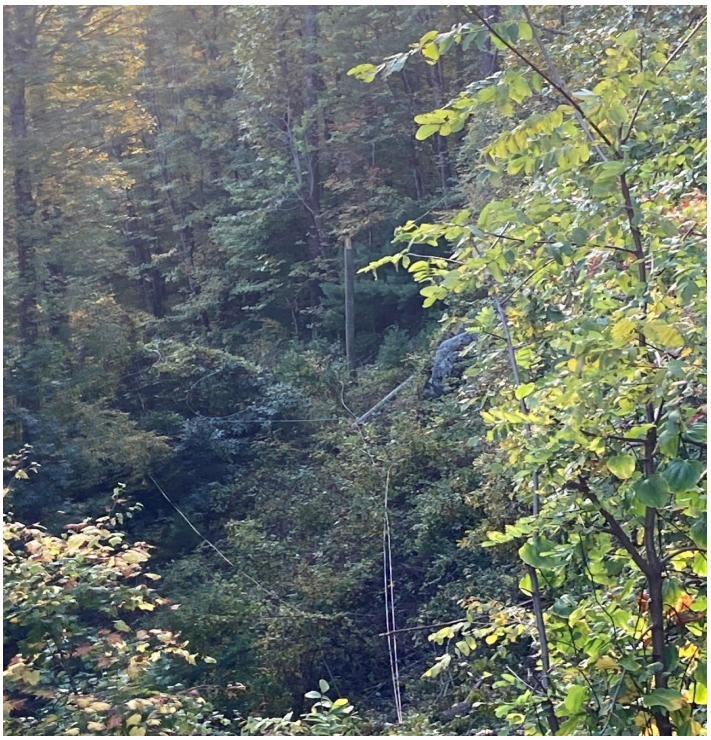
see ***Hurricane Helene***— continued on **page 24**

Hurricane Helene — continued from **page 23**

The biggest problem was the effect the storm had on rental housing in the area—the exact type of housing our students needed. Restaurants were open but understaffed; more than a few people had to leave the area because their homes were destroyed, unsafe, or inaccessible. We had to wonder: would there be enough students to come back to finish the semester? One of my grad students did wind up dropping out, but the others returned.

I keep hearing that this was a "thousand-year flood" and I hope it is—it was certainly long odds for everything to happen the way it did with the rain before the storm, the track of the storm from the Gulf of Mexico instead of the Atlantic, and the speed and strength of the storm. Then I think of 1916, 1940, Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Hurricane Frances in 2004. For some unlucky people around us, the world was changed forever, but we were lucky. On the plus side, in the aftermath of the storm we took in some orphaned pets: four very young kittens found in the woods west of town. Four kittens from three different litters, our children of Helene.

Gary Boye, Globe Valley, North Carolina



(Photo on left) The snapped telephone pole that caused us to lose power.

Helene in Rocky Mount

Here in Rocky Mount, we received a lot of rain from the storm. A nearby tornado missed our neighborhood but damaged a part of town we had been to just a few hours earlier. There were large amounts of water standing around our backyard shed. Thankfully the shed did not float off its foundation.
We were very lucky.

Lynne C. Jaffe, Rocky Mount, North Carolina



(Above) This photo shows large amounts of water by the shed.

Member News

PUBLICATIONS

Berkowitz, Adam. "Slow-MO or FOMO": AI Conversations at Library Conferences." *Public Services Quarterly* 21, no. 1 (2025): 51-70. https://doi.org/10.1080/15228959.2024.2442657

Berkowitz, Adam. "Gimme Some Truth": AI Music and Implications for Copyright and Cataloging." *Information Technology and Libraries* 43, no. 3 (2024). https://doi.org/10.5860/ital.v43i3.17072.

Hristov, M. Natalie, Kathryn A. Linton, and Joshua Ortiz Baco. "Musical Maps of the World in the 21st Century: Leveraging Librarian Expertise in the Development of Visualization Tools for Music Research and Pedagogy." *The Journal of Creative Library Practice.* https://creativelibrarypractice.org/2025/02/19/musical-maps-of-the-world-in-the-21st-century/

PRESENTATIONS

Adam Berkowitz presented at the Association for Library & Information Science Education conference and covered AI prompt engineering and black-box tinkering. About half of the discussion pertains to music, and a recording can be found here: https://youtu.be/MkUhmd8kuk4?si=w3K0PoqPJV9tAdit.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Marliese Thomas, Fine Arts Librarian at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, is participating in Harvard's CopyrightX program, allowing her to be an online student of Harvard Law School's copyright and IP class. Her cohort is incredibly diverse, both in job area and geography. Thomas currently serve on MLA's Legislation Committee and thinks the program will complement that service well!

NEW POSITIONS



Lauren Lundy (she/her) is the newest member of the Instruction and Research Services Librarian team at Furman University. Lundy has recently completed an MLIS from the University of Denver in November 2024, and is also the recipient of an MSM in Vocal Sacred Music from the University of Notre Dame.

EVENTS

'National Kazoo Day'



The Anne Potter Wilson Music Library team hosted 'National Kazoo Day' at Vanderbilt University's Music Library. The event was in collaboration with musicology professor Dr. Cynthia Cyrus. Professor Cyrus gave a presentation on the interesting history of the kazoo accompanying her kazoo exhibit. Students, children, and parents enjoyed making their own comb or toilet paper roll kazoo, a hot chocolate bar, kazoo trivia quiz, and a free kazoo souvenir. It was a great success and recognized in The Vanderbilt Hustler, Vandy's student newspaper.

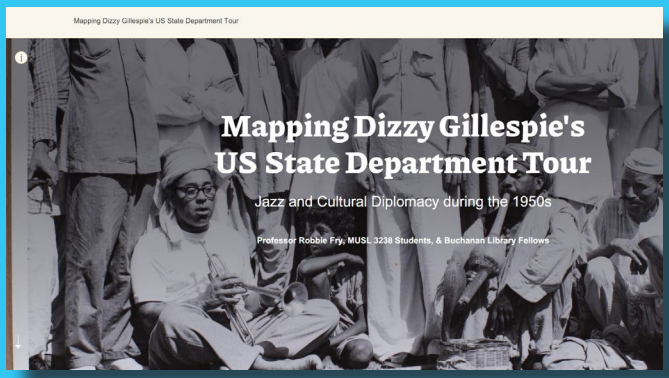
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Member News

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NEW RESOURCES

The Buchanan Library Fellows (BLF) program, offered by Vanderbilt Libraries, allows undergraduate students to build skills, earn a stipend, and participate in a library oriented project such as curating an exhibit, create multimedia, expand data skills, or contribute to new research. At the Wilson Music Library we tailor the BLF program to focus on music special collections, teaching the intersections of music and performance. This past semester a group of fellows completed a mapping project of Dizzy Gillespie's Middle East Tour Scrapbooks. This project was originally started by Professor Robbie Fry and the Global Jazz course students, and while mostly complete, we are continuing to verify dates of travel and add to the map. The StoryMap is available to the public. We encourage SEMLA members to share with their jazz faculty and students as this is a great resource for all! So, go on a journey with Dizzy and his band to Damascus, Athens, Karachi, and more!



FUN NEWS!

Kate Linton and husband Rob welcomed baby girl Nora Grace Linton – 12 weeks early!!! Her current home is the NICU where she is getting great care from the nurses and doctors. She enjoys her frequent visits from mom and dad, bath time, and her bumblebee heart! Nora, born 2 lbs., 14 oz. and 14.5 inches long, is now 5 lbs., 18.5" long, and continuing to grow! Mom and Dad can't wait to take her home soon!



SEMLA ON THE MLA PROGRAM

Music Library Association Virtual Conference 2025

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025 (all times EST)

1:30pm-2:55pm Plenary – Music Libraries and Community Music Making: Spaces, Collections, and Strategies
Speakers: Eric Hung, Melissa Wertheimer, **Elizabeth Uchimura**, Matthew Vest, Patrice Green, Jessica Grimmer

4:30pm-4:55pm Section 108(h): A Copyright Superpower for Libraries and Archives
Speakers: **Peter Shirts,** Marliese Thomas
Sponsor: Legislation Committee

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 (all times EST)

1:00pm-1:55pm Critical approaches to music's canons, collections, and information literacy
Speakers: Angela Pratesi, Elizabeth Berndt, **Veronica A. Wells**

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1:00pm-1:55pm Remembering Forgotten Women: Exploring Hymnody in Early American Needlework Samplers
Speaker: **Shelley Rogers**

1:30pm-2:55pm POSTER SESSION
Concerts at Noon: A Grant-Funded Project from Idea to Realization
Presenter: **Jacob Mauldwin**

From Feedback to Action: Introducing the MLA Social Media Toolkit and Upcoming Interest Group
Presenters: **Rebecca Shaw**, Sabino Fernandez, Meghan Sprabary, Kristin Wolski, **Elizabeth Uchimura**

Echoes of the Mountains: Teaching Traditional Music through the Mountain Youth Jamboree
Presenters: **Beth Thompson,** Martin Best, Kellen Carpenter

3:30pm-3:55pm A New Process for Getting Involved in MLA's Committees and Subcommittees!
Speaker: **Sonia Archer-Capuzzo**
Sponsor: Committee Management Team

3:30pm-4:55pm Public Services Town Hall
Speakers: **Veronica A. Wells, Patricia Sasser,** Anna Grau Schmidt, Laura Thompson
Sponsor: Public Services Committee

4:00pm-4:55pm From Idea to Impact: A Practical Guide to Developing Professional Development Events in MLA
Speakers: Kristi Bergland, **Laura Williams**
Sponsor: Professional Development Workshops Subcommittee

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 (all times EST)

3:00pm-3:55pm Smashing Successes and Metadata Messes: A Series of Lightning Talks
Speakers: Rebecca Belford, Laikin Dantchenko, **Keith Knop,** Janet S. McKinney, Daniela Rodriguez, Anthony Sharp, Mandi Shepp, Katelynn Telford
Sponsors: Cataloging and Metadata Committee, Archives and Special Collections Committee

4:00pm-4:25pm Digital Score Archiving and the End of Finale
Speakers: **Peter Shirts,** Katherine Fisher

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THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 (all times EST)

1:00pm-1:55pm Basic Music Reference at Ten
Speakers: **Patricia Sasser,** Samuel Boss, **Laura Gayle Green,** Alessandra Hollowell, Gwendolyn Oeseburg
Sponsor: Public Services Committee

COMMITTEES & INTEREST GROUPS

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 (all times EST)

12:00pm-12:55pm Social Media Interest Group
Coordinator: **Elizabeth Uchimura**

1:00pm-1:55pm Music Industry & Arts Management Interest Group
Coordinator: **Grover Baker**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025 (all times EST)

1:00pm-1:55pm Public Services Committee
Chair: **Veronica Wells**

2:00pm-2:55pm Music Librarianship Educators Interest Group
Coordinator: **Sonia Archer-Capuzzo**

2:00pm-2:55pm ALMA Music Users Group
Coordinator: **Laura Gayle Green**

music library association

Southeast Chapter of the Music Library Association
Business Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2024, 11:00 a.m. EDT
Furman University, Greenville, SC
Hybrid meeting, in-person and via Zoom

1. Call to Order (Grover Baker)
   Chair Grover Baker called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. with the Yellow Plastic Hammer of Despotism. He displayed the new carrying case for the implements of office.

2. Welcome new members and first-time attendees (Grover Baker)

   a. Alison Nikitopoulos: first-time attendee

   b. Kat Burgess (UNC Greensboro student): first-time attendee and new member

   c. Lauren Lundy (recent graduate): first-time attendee and new member from Orlando

   d. Veronica Wells: first-time attendee and new member

3. Approval of minutes from virtual business meeting, March 5, 2024, via Zoom (Grover Baker)
   https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N-rT3G6v2yq21qoK8wOYXmj-oGrLj1Ao/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106007845056433020667&rtpof=true&sd=true
   The minutes were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report (Amanda Scott)
   https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YnQeXSLOrt5t2pubp_yD_fOUXE0Qf7pm/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106007845056433020667&rtpof=true&sd=true
   Secretary-Treasurer Amanda Scott presented the Treasurer's Report, including corrections from the previous Treasurer's Report. She mentioned that this year's registration form for the Annual Meeting used a new payment integration connecting the form and PayPal. She encouraged feedback. Grover noted that he thought it was easy to donate to SEMLA and pass payment of his registration fees to his library's administration with this integration.

5. Banquet (Grover Baker)
   The cost of the banquet was $10.00 because of Marty Tanner Hughes's generosity (as well as Neil Hughes's)—it actually costs SEMLA more than $10.00 per person. We have been able to charge that amount primarily due to the generosity of Neil and Marty Hughes, and we would like to sustain [those low costs] going forward without being dependent on Marty's generosity. Grover encouraged members to donate to that fund. The banquet is an important part of the meeting, and we may need to do a better job of communicating that and that it does not require formal dress.

6. Interim Editors update (Grover Baker)
   The Executive Board voted to ask Interim Editors Ricky Caboverde (Web Editor) and Kate Linton (*Breve Notes* Editor) to serve in those roles in regular capacities. Both accepted and will serve one-year terms.

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7. *Breve Notes* Editor's update (Kate Linton)
   The August issue (no. 126) was released with Grover's assistance (as former *Breve Notes* Editor). Kate thanked everyone who contributed to the issue. She reported that the next issue (January 2025) will include conference reports from the Annual Meeting, and she may contact people to write reports. She may resume SEMLA's oral history project.

8. Travel Grant announcement (Laura Williams)

   a. Past Chair Laura Williams announced the 2024 recipients of the Pauline Shaw Bayne Travel Grant.

      i. Lauren Lundy: graduate library student at the University of Denver and who will graduate in November 2024

      ii. Lian Warner: graduate of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee at Instruction Librarian at North Greenville University. She attended SEMLA meetings as an undergraduate student.

   b. Travel Grants Committee: Chris Durman, Alison Nikitopoulos, and Shelley Rogers

   c. Restructuring: The committee is helping Laura work out logistical challenges related to the SEMLA National MLA Travel Grant (which was still relatively new when COVID interrupted travel). In particular, the committee chair [either the SEMLA Vice Chair-Chair Elect or Past Chair] term ends during the MLA National Travel Grant timeline.

   d. Laura will soon post the Call for Applications for the SEMLA National MLA Travel Grant. The committee is revising language in the application to lower barriers to applicants, encourage more applications, and reduce bureaucracy. They also did this for the Bayne Travel Grant—instead of requiring a letter of recommendation, they asked for a reference.

9. Announcement and Updates on upcoming SEMLA meetings (Grover Baker)

   a. 2025 – University of North Carolina School of the Arts (Christia Thomason)
   Grover prefaced Christia Thomason's update by announcing that he extended an invitation to the Atlantic Chapter for a joint meeting, and they accepted. She noted that tentative dates are October 23-25 or the week before. It will be the tenth anniversary of UNCSA's library. Winston-Salem (as well as the whole Piedmont region) has lots of musical history, along with Krispy Kreme.

   b. 2026 – University of Miami (Sara Manus)
   Sara Manus reported that dates are less tricky because Miami doesn't have an on-campus stadium. She plans to start looking for a hotel. She noted that the campus has a good event team and a good space in the library that is well-equipped for a hybrid meeting. The meeting could include a tour of the UM Libraries' Cuban Heritage Collection.

   c. 2027 – Joint meeting with Midwest Chapter in Nashville? (Grover Baker)
   Grover announced that SEMLA is discussing a joint meeting with the Midwest Chapter. Midwest Chair Paul Cary is expected to address the idea with the chapter at their business meeting (also

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scheduled for this weekend). Lina Sheahan (Belmont University) has expressed availability to help. The SEMLA members at Vanderbilt University have been instrumental in getting this going. Grover has also been in contact with Kevin Fleming at the Country Music Hall of Fame, and Kevin said he can arrange a tour. Holling Smith-Borne (Vanderbilt) issued a clarification regarding Nashville's bachelorette parties, pedal taverns, and limousines with swimming pools mentioned in previous business meeting minutes. Grover added that holding the entire event on a pedal tavern has been discussed.

10. MLA Best-of-Chapter update (Laura Williams)

    a. Grover encouraged the attendees to think about who they would like to nominate for this year's Best-of-Chapter award

    b. Laura announced the nominees from SEMLA for the Best of Chapter Award.

        i. Nominees:

            1. Holling Smith-Borne and Jake Schaub: "Phil Schaap Jazz Collection: At Last"

            2. Jamie Keesecker, Sarah Griffin, and Laura Williams: "Know the Score: Bringing Music to our Duke University Libraries Colleagues"

        ii. Laura noted that voting was very close, and she also acknowledged Shelley Rogers's presentation, "Hymnody in Early American Samplers."

        iii. Best-of-Chapter Committee: Kate Linton and Lois Kuyper-Rushing

    c. Grover concluded the Best-of-Chapter conversation by mentioning that the MLA Best-of-Chapters committee might be a good MLA service opportunity.

11. *Music in Libraries* Preconference report (Grover Baker)

    a. This is the 12th time SEMLA has held a preconference workshop. Grover thanked the following people:

        i. This year's instructors: Sonia Archer-Capuzzo (cataloging scores), Keith Knop (cataloging video recordings), Holling Smith-Borne and Laura Williams (collection development and acquisitions), and Grover and Chris Durman (reference)

        ii. The Local Arrangements Committee (Patricia Sasser, Alyssa Nance, and Madeline Eastergard)

        iii. SEMLA. SEMLA still offers the preconference even though it has fallen by the wayside among MLA at large

    b. This is the first year to offer a single workshop [half-day] registration option. One person took advantage of this option.

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c. Chris Durman thanked Grover for his leadership for the preconference.

d. David King is in the Atlantic Chapter and Grover noted that he should expect a call next year [to serve as an instructor].

12. New Business

a. Task Force to address lisa Hooper's Climate Disaster Recovery Grant proposal (Grover Baker)

i. In light of recent Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Grover stated that we need to revisit lisa's proposal. He wants to establish a task force to create a proposal to submit to MLA rather than SEMLA establishing a grant on its own. Perhaps all the regional MLA chapters could collaborate on a grant or perhaps MLA itself could administer a grant. He asked members to let him know if they are interested in serving on the task force, and announced that he will send out an call for volunteers at a later point. lisa Hooper has already expressed interest.

ii. lisa thanked Grover for reviving the proposal. She asked if her original proposal should be shared again, and Grover said that he can reshare it. She also asked if the Executive Board should revise it in any way, and Grover said that he will leave that to the task force. lisa reminded everyone that she saw the proposed grant as a gap fund before bigger grants kick in.

b. Resumption of Oral History Project (Grover Baker/Kate Linton)
Jenny Colvin was the driving force for the initial SEMLA Oral History Project, and Renee McBride eventually took over responsibility for it. The interviews were transcribed, published in *Breve Notes*, and the Web Editor may have had files. Jake Schaub (past Web Editor) confirmed that Ricky Caboverde now has all files that he had. The last interview was conducted in 2018 between Sarah Dorsey and Diane Steinhaus. SEMLA paid someone to transcribe the interviews in the past; we may be able to use AI for that now, although concerns about AI's accuracy regarding Southern accents were expressed.

c. Membership/Outreach Committee (Grover Baker)

i. Grover noted that most chapters have one, and current SEMLA membership numbers are not what he was expecting. He suggested that the membership cycle could result in low memberships at this time of year, as people may not renew their memberships until they are registering for the MLA Annual meeting [held in February or March]. Possible questions or activities for this committee include:

1. Examining the Institutional membership category (SEMLA has zero institutional members). Do institutions benefit from being a member?

2. Social media outreach, such as Pets of SEMLA or "Ask Library Anne" posts

3. Outreach to MLA's MLStEP [Music Library Student and Emerging Professionals] Interest Group. Rebecca Shaw, MLStEP's liaison to SEMLA, commented that the Midwest Chapter recently made the MLStEP liaison to them a member of their Board

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ii. Grover concluded the discussion by asking members to be thinking of ways to reach out to people, adding that we all love this organization and want it to continue.

13. Other New Business
After noting that the region was just hit by the second hurricane in two weeks and that the Chapter is in the heart of football country, Sarah Cohen suggested that SEMLA consider changing the Bylaws to allow for the Annual Meeting to be held in spring, perhaps still holding a business meeting in the fall. Sarah Manus pointed out that some institutions can offer more technological support, so maybe the Board should consider hiring outside support to make it easier for host institutions, since the Chapter can afford it. Patricia Sasser observed that may encourage more institutions to host meetings. Lynne Jaffe pointed out that if a spring meeting would be difficult to schedule due to spring holidays such as Easter and Passover, perhaps meeting after spring semesters are concluded might be a good option. Grover noted that we would then need to worry about vacations but also observed that there would be problems anytime in the year. Peter Shirts suggested holding meetings in early November, as that would be closer to the end of hurricane season. Grover commented that SEMLA had considered a Halloween meeting this year, but another conference was planned at Furman at that time. Patricia Sasser noted that fall scheduling can be tricky due to regional Music Teacher Association's meetings and the American Musicological Society's meetings usually being held in November. Grover said we can look at scheduling options moving forward.

14. Announcements

a. Grover thanked the Local Arrangements Committee once more for hosting the meeting.

b. Shelley Rogers will be giving her presentation on hymnody in American samplers at MLA's upcoming Annual meeting. Grover led the Chapter in congratulating Shelley.

15. Election Results (Christia Thomason)

a. Committee members were Jacob Mauldwin, Jennifer Martin, and, ex-officio [and unofficially] Secretary-Treasurer Amanda Scott.

b. Results:

i. Incoming Chair Elect-Vice Chair: Peter Shirts

ii. Incoming Member-at-Large: Joel Roberts

c. Christia thanked this year's nominees and encouraged people to nominate themselves. Grover thanked Christia for making this election a difficult decision, the new Executive Board members, and outgoing Board members Laura Williams and Christia.

16. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm EDT by Grover using the SEMLAGator.

Southeast Chapter of the Music Library Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report
For period March 5, 2024 to October 21, 2024
Submitted by Amanda Scott
Greenville, SC
October 26, 2024

Net Worth as of March 5, 2024 $26,579.06

INCOME			
Dues			$895.00
Annual meeting registration fees			$3,079.16
	Preconference	*$590.00*	
	Annual meeting	*$2,140.00*	
	Banquet	*$340.00*	
	Test transactions and PayPal fee refunds for test	*$8.16*	
	Registration PayPal fee refunds	*$1.00*	
Donations			$3,473.00
Savings account interest			$1.30
		TOTAL:	**$7,448.46**
EXPENSES			
Annual meeting expenses			$218.74
	Jotform subscription	*$58.50*	
	PayPal fees and transaction refund for test	*$9.14*	
	PayPal fees	*$101.10*	
	Registration refunds	*$50.00*	
Election Buddy (Best-in-Chapter, Officer Election)			$58.00
		TOTAL:	**$276.74**
Checking account balance as of October 21, 2024			**$5,436.92**
Savings account balance as of October 21, 2024			**$22,094.40**
PayPal balance as of October 21, 2024			**$6,219.46**

Net Worth as of October 21, 2024 $33,750.78

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Treasurer's Report — continued from **page 34**

Travel Grant Summaries	
Pauline Shaw Bayne (3/5/2024)	$2,485.53
Donations	$156.00
Funds from dues	$300.00
Balance (10/21/2024)	$2,941.53
National MLA (3/5/2024)	$2,480.06
Donations	$96.00
Balance (10/21/2024)	$2,576.06
Total balance (10/21/2024)	**$5,517.59**

Memberships as of 10/21/2024	
Paid Individual members	49
Complimentary members	7
Institutional members	0
Total members	56

Neil R. Hughes and Marty Tanner Hughes Annual Meeting Banquet Fund, 3/5/2024-10/21/2024[1]	
Starting balance	$4,059.90
Donations	$3,176.00
Banquet registrations	$340.00
Expenses	-$0.00
Current balance (10/21/2024)	**$7,575.90**

CORRECTED Travel Grant Summaries, 10/11/2023-3/4/2024	
Pauline Shaw Bayne (10/11/2023)	$2,210.53
Funds from dues	$225.00
Transfers	$50.00
Balance (3/4/2024)	$2,485.53
National MLA (10/11/2023)	$2,550.06
Paid out	-$70.00
Balance (3/4/2024)	$2,480.06
Total balance (3/4/2024)	**$4,965.59**

1 At the March 11, 2022, Business Meeting, SEMLA voted to establish the Neil R. Hughes and Marty Tanner Hughes Annual Meeting Banquet Fund.