

CHAPTER MEETING REPORT

October 1998 – Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

The Midwest Chapter of the Music Library Association held its fall meeting at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 22-24. The meeting began with various chapter committees holding sessions from 1-5 on Thursday the 22nd. After the dinner break, the members were invited to view the newly remodeled Kalamazoo Public Library. A reception and tour of the Ladies Library Association followed the library tour.

Friday's program began with welcoming messages by Program Chair, H. Stephen Wright, Local Arrangements Chair, Greg Fitzgerald, and Dean of the Library at Western Michigan University, Lance Query. The first session, "Dilbert comes to the music library," was moderated by Bonna Boettcher of Bowling Green State University. The panel consisted of Lew Bowling, Marty Jenkins, and Richard Le Sueur. Richard gave his view of management at Ann Arbor's public library, while Marty described the management style at Wright State University and the changes that have occurred since the new director began. Lew Bowling told of the changes at the University of Kentucky library, going from a hierarchical style of management to a team management style, and the challenges it entailed.

After a brief break, Beth Christensen introduced David Isaacson, assistant head of central reference services at WMU, to talk about general reference sources that can be useful for music information. A bibliography was given to MLA members and a humorous presentation by Isaacson followed. After the luncheon and business meeting were completed, the program continued with a presentation by Dr. Zaide Pixley on Leta Snow and the development of the Kalamazoo Symphony. The presentation by Pixley included a slide show of the various community members and performers associated with the orchestra and its beginnings.

The last session on Friday was a tour of WMU's Special Collections, which also featured a reception and exhibition of various rare and special materials. The rest of the day was open for dinner at any of the various restaurants nearby, and some members were also able to attend a concert by the Kalamazoo Symphony.

The two sessions planned for Saturday morning were Alf Clausen's music for the Simpsons, presented by H. Stephen Wright, and Dos and taboos of speaking in public, given by Dr. Melissa Gibson, assistant professor of communications at WMU. The first session by Wright included video excerpts from the television program, the Simpsons. Wright explained about the two types of music used in the show: background music and referential music (i.e. music referring to something outside the narrative program).

Dr. Gibson asked us to list our fears of public speaking and the types of presentations that we normally give. She then provided us with a list of ways we can be better speakers. The session and chapter meeting ended at noon.

Submitted by: Patty Falk, Bowling Green State University