

## Joint Chapter Meeting in Montreal: NYSO/NEMLA/SQACBM

by Marci Cohen

On November 8 and 9, 2018, the New York State-Ontario (NYSO) and New England (NEMLA) chapters of the Music Library Association (MLA) and the Quebec Chapter (SQACBM) of the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (CAML) held a joint meeting in Montreal at McGill University's New Residence Hall. The event drew approximately 100 attendees from across the US and Canada, including members of the MLA board who held their own meeting in conjunction with the event.

The program committee attracted so many worthwhile proposals that organizers expanded the event to fill both days, with 17 presentations, two posters, and concluding with a tour of the Canadian Music Centre. SQACBM and NYSO also held chapter meetings. Designed as a bilingual event, most presentations were in English. Those who spoke in French accompanied their talks with slides in English.

The presentations covered a wide range of topics and issues relevant to music libraries. For example, Julie E. Cumming (McGill) and Jada Watson (University of Ottawa) spoke about digital scholarship projects involving finding trends across large bodies of musical works, while Suzanne



Julie E. Cumming, Opening address

Eggleston Lovejoy (Yale University) conducted traditional research on a single song, "The Long, Long Trail," tying together her own institution, McGill, University of Toronto, and the timely 100th anniversary of the WWI armistice. Lisa Philpott (University of Western Ontario) addressed the challenges of self-published PDF scores, while Andrea Cawelti (Harvard University) advocated for the myriad wonders of sheet music. Proving that everything old is new again, Joseph Darby (Keene State College) discussed subscription-based music publishing in 18th-century Britain, a process with obvious parallels to today's crowdfunding.

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Marci Cohen is Assistant Head of Boston University's Music Library and Chair of the New England Chapter of the Music Library Association (NEMLA).



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Jonathan Manton (Yale University) and Lenora Schneller (Cornell University) described methods for better meeting user needs, the former with methods for developing an online A/V access system and the latter with library renovations based on open-ended survey responses. Ronald Broude of music reprint publisher Broude Brothers Limited gave a first-hand account of the history of music reprinting, including a juicy tidbit about sabotaging a competitor's ethically questionable actions.

A particular highlight was "Current Issues and Future Directions in Music Librarianship," notable for its esteemed panel: MLA President Mark C. McKnight, MLA Vice President/President-Elect Susannah Cleveland, IAML Vice President Joseph Hafner, and CAML President Carolyn Doi. CAML President-Elect Houman Behzadi facilitated the discussion. The panelists addressed a variety of challenges and opportunities facing the profession, including the shift away from subject specialists, diversity and inclusion issues such as better representing First Nations in Canadian collections, and general leadership advice.



Mark C. McKnight, Susannah Cleveland, Joseph Hafner, Carolyn Doi  
Panel: Current Issues and Future Directions in Music Librarianship



Houman Behzadi, panel moderator



Kimberly White, exhibition curator, presenting during the program for the opening of *Women, Work, and Song in Nineteenth-Century France*

The first day of the event ended with a reception at McGill University's Marvin Duchow Music Library marking the opening of a new exhibit, *Women, Work, and Song in Nineteenth-Century France*. In a city renowned for its food, the delicious spread was no surprise. What was remarkable was the presentation, no mere list of thank-yous for the exhibit. Curator Kimberly White provided both an overview of the themes covered by different parts of the exhibit and an introduction for each representative song performed by vocalist Catherine Harrison-Boisvert.

Harrison-Boisvert's evocative delivery coupled with White's English-language descriptions made the performance entertaining and informative for both Francophones and Anglophones.



Catherine Harrison-Boisvert, performing songs from the Marvin Duchow Music Library's 19th-Century French Sheet Music Collection

A working group with representatives from each chapter planned the event: Houman Behzadi, NYSO & SQACBM; Cathy Martin, SQACBM; Lenora Schneller, NYSO; Jared Rex, NEMLA; Marci Cohen, NEMLA. The program committee consisted of the program chairs from each chapter: Sarah Funke Donovan, NEMLA; Jim Farrington, NYSO; Christiane Melançon, SQACBM. Board members and other representatives from the three chapters assisted with numerous other arrangements, including catering, registration, and the creation of a [bilingual conference program](#).