Recent Events

Player Piano Reveal

On September 22, 2018 we held the reveal of our newly restored Steinway Duo-Art reproducing player piano. There were lectures by Dr. Catherine Hennesy Wolter (U of I PhD, Musicology, 2015) and restorer Mel Septon in which we heard about the history of player pianos and the restoration process of our piano.

The restoration of the instrument and creation of a dedicated space for it and our roll collection were made possible by a gift from the Office for the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and additional funds from the Dean of the University Library, John Wilkin.

About 75 people attended the event and in addition to the lectures they were able to see and hear the piano in action, ask questions of our speakers, and peruse materials from our collection related to player pianos.

We are working to assess our roll collection and create an inventory, and once complete, the piano and rolls will be available to classes and researchers by appointment. For more information about our piano and rolls, please see https://bit.ly/2OPRMfc
Staff News

Changes in Librarian Appointments

Kirstin Dougan was appointed Head of the Music and Performing Arts Library (losing the “interim” from her title) in May 2018. She holds the rank of associate professor.

Kate Lambaria joined the tenure track as Music and Performing Arts Librarian (losing the “visiting” from her title) in August of 2018. She now holds the rank of assistant professor.

Graduate Assistant News

Former MPAL GA Wendy Wong has been awarded a Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Digital Scholarship Postdoctoral Fellowship to work at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), where she will join their Research Support and Digital Initiatives team.

Current GA Halle Burns attended the Digital Humanities at Oxford (UK) Summer School as part of her placement in the Oxford-Illinois Digital Library Placement Program, working on the project “Linked Data for Bodleian Medieval Manuscript Collections”.

New Graduate Assistants this year include Thom Jencks and Cory Davis.

Services

Online Room Reservation System

Over the summer, MPAL joined several other campus libraries in a new room reservation system. All group rooms at MPAL can now be reserved up to 14 days in advance and reservations can be made for up to two hours at a time. To reserve a room or view available listening/viewing equipment in each room, visit: uuiuc.libcal.com/reserve/mpalrooms. This link can also be found on MPAL’s homepage.

Significant Acquisitions

Adès: The Tempest Facsimile

The Library has purchased the limited edition facsimile of Thomas Adès’ The Tempest. It includes color plates of exclusive images from Adès’ original handwritten score and sketches. vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uiu/Record/uiu_8698415

Digital Theatre +

Digital Theatre + includes filmed productions and interviews, as well as documentaries, masterclasses, and lectures. It also offers written content such as study guides, practical workshop guides and encyclopedia entries aimed at practitioners, educators, and scholars. A link to access this collection can be found on the MPAL homepage.

Online Content Trial

We now have full access to ProQuest (and Alexander Street Press) content on an extended trial basis through August 2021. This includes such resources as:

- 20th Century North American Drama
- Audio Drama
- Black Drama, 3rd ed.
- Classical Drama
- Contemporary World Drama
- Dance Studies
- Music Periodicals in the 19th Century
- North American Indian Drama
- North America Women’s Drama
- Performance Design Online

...and many others.

Feedback is welcome and once the trial is over the Library will review what content was used to make decisions about what to purchase.

Tool Tips

Catalog Mysteries: Special Collections Location

Have you ever come across something in the online catalog that has a location of “Music & Performing Arts Special Collection [non-circulating]” or “Music & Performing Arts Special Collection” and wondered what those mean? The items in our Special Collections are either special because of their format (like LPs), their rarity, and/or their fragility/condition.

These items generally do not circulate outside of the Library (with a few exceptions). However, you can still use these items in the Library and if they do not say “non-circulating” you can check them out to take home (like our LPs).

To use an item from Special Collections, please ask for it by call number at either the first floor service desk or the second floor desk if it is open.