Welcome & Future Plans

The Libraries are planning for how and when we will begin to reopen fully to the public. We anticipate being able to reopen in a limited way some time during summer, with longer hours in fall semester. Watch for announcements on our homepage, Twitter, and via email. While our doors are still closed right now, there are many ways you can access our collections and get research help.

Events and Exhibits

Player Piano Online

The MPAL Player Piano is now online! Come hear it on May 5th from 12-1pm. Register here: https://go.library.illinois.edu/May5PianoDemo.

Also, keep an eye out for a future digital exhibit about the piano and roll collection. Information about the piano and roll collection can be found here: https://www.library.illinois.edu/mpal/about/collections/specialcollections/steinway-duo-art-player-piano/

Broadsides Collection

MPAL’s collection of 19th century American Broadsides is now online thanks to work done by MPAL graduate assistant Gabby LaBare and the Internet Archive! They can be found in MPAL’s collection of digitized materials in the Internet Archive here: https://archive.org/details/mpalillinois

Hymn Tune Index

Nicholas Temperley, Professor Emeritus in the School of Music, left a great legacy in the form of the Hymn Tune Index, both in print form and in the form of a searchable database, hosted by the Library. https://hymntune.library.illinois.edu/

He left a generous bequest to the University Library to aid in the maintenance and improvement of the database. https://with.illinois.edu/professors-donation-strikes-right-note/

Contact Us

* mpal@library.illinois.edu
* library.illinois.edu/mpal/
* @mpalillinois on Twitter
Diversifying the Collection

MPAL has for the last several years been making concerted efforts to diversify the representation of the composers, playwrights, and authors found in our collection. Recent efforts have focused on Asian and Asian American composers, women composers, plays by BIPOC and LGBTQ+ authors, and more.

We would love your suggestions! Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to submit purchase recommendations via email to mpal@library.illinois.edu or this online form: https://go.library.illinois.edu/MPALPurchaseRec

MPAL is also actively developing an online research guide that is designed to highlight diversity, equity, and inclusion resources for the performing arts—from diversifying your repertoire to researching the topic itself. Check it out and contribute additional resources here: https://guides.library.illinois.edu/perartsdei

Significant Acquisitions

Raven Chacon

MPAL has recently acquired works in the For Zitkála Šá series by Raven Chacon, a Diné (Navajo Nation) composer, artist, and performer. The Pew Foundation describes him as a “composer and sound artist whose works combine contemporary chamber music with self-made electronic and acoustic instruments while conveying the perspectives of Indigenous people. He composes for chamber instruments but notes that his work is ‘deliberately performed for non-traditional audiences and in non-classical venues.’”

https://www.pewcenterarts.org/people/raven-chacon

For Zitkála Šá is a series of limited-edition fine art prints based on Chacon’s unique compositional notations created in collaboration with Master Printer Judith Baumann. They are dedicated to such individuals as Joy Harjo, Buffy Sainte-Marie, and Cheryl L’Hirondelle.

MPAL also acquired a copy of Chacon’s Horse Notations (above). Once cataloged and processed, all of these materials will be housed in MPAL’s Special Collections, available for viewing by request.

Services

Returning Materials

Both our external and internal drop boxes are open, and you can return materials at any time. There is an internal set just inside the heavy gray doors (these remain unlocked since they are fire doors) at the entrance to the Library as well as a set on the outside of Music Building near the Oregon Street doors. Photos for reference can be found here on the Return Materials tab: guides.library.illinois.edu/COVIDResponse_MPAL/Services.

We quarantine materials for seven days upon return, so you will see a delay in their removal from your library account.

Lost and Overdue Fines

The University Library has recently updated policies related to lost and overdue fines. The Library will no longer charge a $10 processing fee for any lost items that are returned. If you are billed for a lost item and still have it in your possession, please return it as soon as possible through the library drop boxes. More details can be found here: https://www.library.illinois.edu/borrowing/overdue-and-lost-items/.

Access Collections & Services

Reminder of Services during COVID-19 Response

Don’t forget that even though the library is closed, you can still access our collections, use I-Share collections, make ILL requests, and get help form MPAL online. An overview of services during the pandemic can be found here: https://guides.library.illinois.edu/COVIDResponse_MPAL/Services