

Music Library Renovation

Ensuring Access to an Extraordinary Collection

One of the Largest Collections in North America

The Music Library at the Don Wright Faculty of Music is home to one of the largest collections in North America. Of particular interest to scholars are the number of scores and recordings of a given work available for study, e.g. Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" is available in 20 printed scores and 75 recorded performances.

The special collections are of international interest and significance: artefacts from the Alma Rosé Collection have been on exhibit at Vienna's Jewish Museum (2004); and a manuscript score, *La fée Urgèle* from The Opera Collection, was loaned to Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel in 2008.

Collection at a Glance

- Approximately 600,000 catalogued items, including more than 100,000 books, periodicals and musical scores;
- 400,000 music performance parts and more than 50,000 recordings;
- Over 10,000 manuscripts and printed books on microforms
- The Opera Collection contains rare editions of books, scores and manuscripts dating from the 1600s to the mid-1800s; and
- The Gustav Mahler - Alfred Rosé Collection includes memorabilia associated with Gustav Mahler, including autograph manuscripts and letters, considered to be the world's finest surviving collection of Mahler's early career.

The irony is that our own students and faculty have inconvenient access to:

- Unique archival material, artifacts, scores, books and recordings (which are spread over three locations on- and off-campus); and
- Appropriate and convenient study and learning spaces in which to collaborate, while examining these resources.

The Challenge: Spaces for Success

Our Collection has received international attention, despite the difficulties in offering convenient local access in its present state. As part of our ambitious fundraising campaign, we are dedicated to ensuring the infrastructure at the Don Wright Faculty of Music offers the services and spaces needed for our students to succeed. Enhancing and updating our Music Library is one of our top priorities.



“We are one of the largest Faculties of Music in the country with an extraordinary music library collection of international interest. Due to limited space to house the collection, access to these remarkable resources is challenged. It is time to create a space worthy of such a collection—one that is not only functional but aesthetically pleasing.”

- Betty Anne Younker,
Dean, Don Wright Faculty of Music

Music Library Renovation

Preliminary goals of the renovation include plans to:

- Triple the size of library to improve functionality;
- Improve seating, lighting and design; and
- Update equipment and structural components such as storage, electrical and HVAC to completely modernize the space.

Preserving and Sharing the Collection

Music and other paper documents from 1850 through 2000 are printed on acidic paper and are subject to deterioration with the passage of time. The fragility of these materials causes the provision of access to be inconvenient, complicated and costly.

Considering the nature and research value of these materials, ongoing management and care is required to preserve them over time. In addition, proper stewardship of these resources will make it much easier to share them locally and across the globe.

Part of our commitment to renewing the Music Library includes plans to ensure that proper archival and preservation protocols can be met.

An Extraordinary Opportunity to Impact Learning

The Faculty is committed to raising **\$3 million** in order to renovate and expand the Music Library.

With the support of our alumni and friends, we will transform the current space into an accessible, valuable resource for our students, and a showcase worthy of a collection which is of interest to music lovers worldwide.

A gift in support of the Music Library Renovation will touch many lives. A modern, user-centred space will:

- Open our collection up to our students, enriching their Western Experience;
- Support the work of musical scholars across the country and around the world; and
- Advance the international profile of Western and the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

Recognition and Naming Opportunities

The Faculty is committed to working with leading donors to provide appropriate naming opportunities in recognition of their generous gifts in support of the Music Library.

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Photo credit: Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel, Ausstellung "König Lustik!?" 2008 exhibition

Inspiring Creativity Abroad

The contents of the Gustav Mahler - Alfred Rosé Collection are internationally recognized and have been requested and hosted by museums and consulates around the world.

In 2008, Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel in Germany exhibited an original manuscript from the Opera Collection.

The wallpaper pictured above was made from a high resolution scan of page one of the third act of the Opera, *Le fee urgèle* by Felice Blangini. The resulting installation enriched the experience of the museum patrons, musicians and scholars who viewed the exhibit.

It is this calibre of inspirational display that we hope to achieve with a transformation of the Music Library. Additional elements could include acquiring, arranging, describing, and preserving rare archival holdings, as well as selective digitization of materials to make the collection widely available.



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