

## **Episode 15: Brought to You By**

### **Brian Sajecki**

Hello. Welcome to the libraries Out Loud short podcast series called "Brought to You By." I'm Brian Sajecki, an Undergraduate Education Librarian at the University of Buffalo, and I'll be your host for this episode. Today, we present to you, Deborah Chiarella. Hi, Deb, thanks for agreeing to meet with me today.

### **Deborah Chiarella**

You're welcome, Brian. Nice to see you.

### **Brian Sajecki**

So, let's get started with a very simple question here. Where are you from and what did you study in college?

### **Deborah Chiarella**

I'm originally from Toronto, Canada, and in my undergraduate degree, I studied music at York University in Toronto and then my MLS here in Buffalo.

### **Brian Sajecki**

So, you started with music? Yes, I did. How does that translate to being a librarian then? Did you know you wanted to be a librarian all along then?

### **Deborah Chiarella**

No, actually, I didn't. I came to librarianship as a second career. I stayed home and had a family and then went back and got my MLS when my kids were little.

### **Brian Sajecki**

How long have you been here at the UB Libraries?

### **Deborah Chiarella**

I started out as a grad student, so I guess technically I've been here about 17 years.

**Brian Sajecki**

So, what's your current position?

**Deborah Chiarella**

Right now, I'm an Associate Librarian and the liaison to the Department of Music and the Department of Theater and Dance.

**Brian Sajecki**

Have you always had this position or did you do something else before with the Libraries?

**Deborah Chiarella**

I did not always have this position. I was the liaison to the School of Pharmacy on South Campus for 12 years before coming to the Music Library.

**Brian Sajecki**

Pharmacy to Music. Very cool. So where exactly do you work on campus?

**Deborah Chiarella**

On the North Campus here I work in the Music Library on the main floor of Baird Hall. That's where the music library is. But there are a number of collections in the Music Library that I work directly with, including some rare materials, archival materials. I work with scores and parts and books, and some of those materials aren't located in the music library that the patrons can see. We have a compact storage facility in the basement of Baird Hall as well that houses all our archival collections, along with some other materials that I work with.

**Brian Sajecki**

So as a Music Librarian, what exactly do you do?

**Deborah Chiarella**

A lot of different things in the Music Library. I assist faculty and students in the Departments of Music and Theater and Dance, including Musical Theater, with their research questions and any

library instruction requests they might have. I also help evaluate the music library materials. I do some collection development in the music library, which includes selection of books and scores and CDs and DVDs. Any audiovisual material. And, and databases as well. And I participate as a member of the University Library's Collection Committee. I also represent the Music or the Libraries at the Music Department faculty meetings so I can keep both the Libraries updated on the departmental needs and let the Music Department know about anything that might be relevant to them happening in the Libraries. This semester, I'm also serving as an academic success coach with an undergraduate seminar in the Department of Theater and Dance, and I often assist members of the Western New York community with both scores and research questions. Sometimes that means community musicians, sometimes it's members of the BPO, other professional musicians, sometimes it's students at other SUNY schools. And I also facilitate access for the worldwide research community with regard to some of our rare materials and archival collections. We have over 70 unique archival collections, including recordings and photographs, scores, some correspondence, programs and a collection of posters that relate to a number of different topics connected to music. But probably the most used materials belong to a group of contemporary classical composers that were part of UB between 1964 and 1980, and they're referred to as the Creative Associates. Researchers are really interested in studying these materials right now, by this this group of composers. I also sit on a number of different committees in the UB Libraries and in the region and outside the region.

### **Brian Sajecki**

It's very cool. Well, you spoke of some rare pieces of the collection. So, we definitely have some. What are the most interesting to you?

### **Deborah Chiarella**

Let's see. We do have some rare items. We have a Treasure Room that houses a number of things that would be considered rare or valuable. We have scores that are very old, as well as some facsimiles of old scores that are really important to researchers. We have some one-of-a-kind photographs and ephemera of some correspondence from famous people, as well as some original scores. It's a pretty diverse and fascinating collection, and I'm always happy to give tours to anyone who might be interested in learning more. We also hold a collection of binders and clippings and concert programs. They're essentially a history of the music department and the music, music at UB. And in the few years that I've been here at the Music Library, I would say I probably get a request for information from those binders once a week, at least. I'm always surprised at the number of times I've had to refer to those binders for a researcher.

### **Brian Sajecki**

Wow, interesting. So now that people know a little bit about you, what is your favorite part about being a Librarian or working at UB?

**Deborah Chiarella**

I guess my very favorite part about being a Librarian is that especially in music, that it's, it's a love of mine, first of all, but every day in the Music Library is different. There's rarely a day where I don't learn something new from a library patron or from a faculty member or or my colleagues. So, I'm really fortunate to work with a group of people with such diverse interests who are willing to share their expertise with everyone.

**Brian Sajecki**

Are there any plans for the Music Library in the near future?

**Deborah Chiarella**

There are, in the future will be moving the collection to the fifth floor of Lockwood Library. I'm really optimistic that this will bring more visibility to this really unique and wonderful collection. I think there are a lot of people at the University that really don't know that we have this collection here. Lots of amateur musicians out there that are students and faculty members that don't know that they don't have to be a music student to use the collection. I'm really hoping the integration into our larger collection will bring some new faces into the space.

**Brian Sajecki**

Lastly, do you have any hobbies or interests outside of work that you would like to share?

**Deborah Chiarella**

Well, obviously I'm, I'm a musician. I'm an amateur musician. I really wish I had more time to do that. I try to do it when I can. I play flute, which is my main instrument that I studied in college, but I also play some piano. I'm not an expert at that by any means. And a number of years ago, I took up classical guitar for for fun, and I also love to cook. I usually found with a recipe book close by.

**Brian Sajecki**

Well, thanks for taking the time to give us a glimpse into what you do and your work, the Libraries are lucky to have you.

**Deborah Chiarella**

You're welcome. Thanks for having me.

**Brian Sajecki**

Thank you for listening to this brought to you by short presented by the University of Buffalo Libraries Out Loud podcast series. Stay tuned for our next episode coming soon.