Celebrating the Life

and

Career of Carol June Bradley

(1934-2009)
Case 1

Carol June Bradley, with Jim Coover in background, at the 1999 meeting of the New York State-Ontario Chapter of the Music Library Association held in Buffalo to honor their careers.

Photograph by Gerry Szymanski

Carol June Bradley came to the University at Buffalo in 1967. She and Jim Coover were hired to create a music library that would match the growing research demands and capability of new faculty and students. They began with some 18,000 scattered volumes of music and music literature, no office, no staff support, no telephone, no typewriter, and not even a book truck. When they retired in 1999 the Music Library was in a pleasant space largely built to their specifications within the same building as the Music Department. It held more than 159,000 fully processed volumes of scores, books, journals, and recordings, with backlogs of approximately 30,000 more items. They accomplished this while also establishing a successful program in Music Librarianship that has produced dozens of well-qualified, successful music librarians.

Both Ms. Bradley and Mr. Coover set the highest possible standards for their day-to-day work and expected their students to meet the same. But they also set a standard for professionalism among music librarians, one that required persistent intellectual curiosity and scholarly pursuit. The bibliography (at end of text) of Ms. Bradley’s publications is testament to her devotion to the field, her energy, and intellect.
Carol June Bradley was born August 12, 1934 to George and Alice Bradley in the central Pennsylvania town of Huntingdon. Her family later relocated to Carlisle, PA. Bradley demonstrated her writing ability while still a high school student when she won first prize in the Lamberton Essay contest with her essay about the Irving Female College. She attended Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA to major in music education, graduating in 1956. However, she did not have a positive reaction to her student teaching experience, and with advice from a school librarian in Carlisle, decided to attend library school at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. During her college years Ms. Bradley also studied violin, attending summer sessions at Chautauqua Institute where she studied with Hortense and Mischa Mischakoff.

Case 2

Carol June Bradley began her career as a music librarian in 1957 at the Free Library in Philadelphia where she was responsible for the Drinker Library of Choral Music. She also wrote a history of the Edwin A. Fleisher Music Collection at the Free Library that served as her M.S. thesis in library science at Western Reserve University. Her interest in the Fleisher Collection continued throughout her career: she prompted her colleague Harry L. Kownatsky to write his own history of the collection and edited the text after Kownatsky died in 2003.
A HISTORY OF THE
EDWIN A. PLEISHER MUSIC COLLECTION
OF THE
FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

by

CAROL JUNE BRADLEY

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

June 1957
Ms. Bradley left Philadelphia in 1959 to accept a new position at West Point Military Academy. Her tour of duty at the academy was brief but distinguished. She established a music library and also conducted a regular series of recorded concerts and pre-opera seminars. Less than thrilled with her experience at the institution, she left in 1960 to join the staff of the music library at nearby Vassar College. This began her long association with Jim Coover and provided her with the years of experience in technical services that shaped much of her later scholarly work.

Carol June Bradley became chair of the Music Library Association’s Information and Organization Committee in 1959. As a result of her service on the committee until 1967 she produced two MLA publications: she compiled the information for the brochure, *Education for Music Librarianship* and edited the *Manual of Music Librarianship* (1966).

Table of contents for typescript of *Manual of Music Librarianship*. 
The George Sherman Dickinson Music Library at Vassar College used Dickinson’s own classification scheme for its music collection. Ms. Bradley became the leading authority on this classification system and it was adopted for use at the University at Buffalo. She wrote and published the chief guide to the system in 1968: *The Dickinson Classification: A Cataloguing & Classification Manual for Music.*
Case 3

As previously mentioned, Carol June Bradley moved to Buffalo in 1967 to begin a new chapter in her career. Even though she was engaged in a very intense daily work load, she was able to commit to completing a PhD in Library Science at Florida State University. She completed her degree in 1978 and wrote *The Genesis of American Music Librarianship: 1902-1942* as her dissertation. It was expanded to become *American Music Librarianship: a Biographical and Historical Survey* in 1990. During this period she was also able to continue her research in music librarianship, editing another text on the topic in 1973: *Reader in Music Librarianship*. 
It is interesting to note Ms. Bradley’s early interest and research into methods of automating library processes. She was active as the representative of the Music Library Association with the Library Automation, Research and Consulting Association (1969-1971) and the Association for Computing Machinery (1969-1971). Within the Music Library Association she served as chair of the Automation Committee during the same years. She presented a paper and exhibit at the 1973 meeting of the Music Library Association in Las Vegas titled *Towards an Automated Record Catalog: A Description of the System Used at the State University of New York at Buffalo.*
Carol June Bradley's first decade of excellent work at the University at Buffalo was recognized in 1977 when she was selected as one of five librarians in the entire State University of New York system awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship.
May 12, 1977

13 from U/B win Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Seven professors, two librarians, four administrators get $500 prizes

University of British Columbia

State University this week cited 63 professors, two librarians, and four administrators from the University staff members for excellence in their respective fields.

Seven of the professors, two of the librarians, and four of the administrators were from U/B. Two professors were from the Department of Psychology.

Receiving Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching were: Norman Sprott, associate professor of history; W. Leslie Stamp, Jr., professor of pediatrics; Robert Gray, assistant professor of English; Dorothy C. Cram, associate professor of art; Ronald J. Wall, professor of education; and Joseph W. Martin, professor of psychology.

Cited for excellence in research were: Carole Mather, associate director, Medical Library, and Citation in Research, associate professor of biological sciences; James Blackburn, director of Summer Schools; Mr. Patricia Gilchrist, assistant librarian, faculty of Fine Arts; and Mr. Zora Perdue, professor of psychology.

Five-Year Teaching Achievement Awards had been conferred upon 80 faculty members from the University, some of whom had achieved notable success in their respective fields.

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Administration was awarded to the faculty of any University campus chosen to be outstanding for its contributions to the university community.

Most of the 63 faculty honored, the University system was eligible for consideration for the award. As a result of the award, each faculty member received a $500 check in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

The University of British Columbia was chosen for its contributions to the education and advancement of students in British Columbia.

The University of British Columbia was chosen for its contributions to the education and advancement of students in British Columbia.
Carol June Bradley continued to compile information about American music librarianship throughout her career and produced several more books and articles, including:


The University at Buffalo Music Library and Music Department are very fortunate that Carol June Bradley had the foresight to see the value of collecting documentation produced locally through the activities of music faculty and the many visiting musicians who have performed in Buffalo. These collections are now used internationally by music researchers. Ms. Bradley laid the groundwork for this accessibility by generating, either herself or through her students, inventories of the collections. The data in these inventories could later be converted to HTML for use on the Web or used to create databases that made the data searchable. She made it possible to preserve and study materials that are unique to this institution and the realm of music research as a whole.
Carol June Bradley and Jim Coover spent an untold number of hours educating new generations of music librarians. Their standards were rigorous and they demanded the highest level of quality from their students. They acted as advisors on theses and taught courses in music librarianship and music bibliography. But one of the aspects of the program that best prepared students for the “real” world was the hands-on work that was almost completely supervised by Ms. Bradley. Students quickly became accustomed to seeing the green ink of her markings on their cataloging or other work.

Collections cataloged under Ms. Bradley’s supervision include:

**Collections of concert recordings:**

- Creative Associates' Recitals, 1964-80
- [Department] Concerts and Lectures, 1962-81
- Evenings for New Music, 1964-80
- Faculty Composer Composition Recitals, 1962-81
- June in Buffalo, 1975-80
- North American New Music Festival, 1983-1993
- Slee Lecture Recitals, 1957-76

**Papers of:**

- Center for the Creative and Performing Arts
- North American New Music Festival
- Jan Williams
- Yvar Mikhashoff
- Morton Feldman
- Lejaren Hiller

**Scores of:**

- Jan Williams
- Yvar Mikhashoff
- Lejaren Hiller
- Leo Smit
- Anton Wolf
- Arnold Cornelissen
- Livingston Gearhart

**Photographs** of many of the musical events held at the University.
Ms. Bradley organized and moderated a special panel discussion for the 1981 50th anniversary annual meeting of the Music Library Association in which Otto E. Albrecht, Richard S. Angell, Virginia Cunningham, Philip L. Miller, Kurtz Myers, Carleton Sprague Smith, and Edward N. Waters participated. Ms. Bradley also wrote a history of the organization for the program booklet.
Richard S. Angell, Edward N. Waters, and Carleton Sprague Smith at the 50th anniversary annual meeting of the Music Library Association in 1981, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Kurtz Myers, Richard S. Angell, and Edward N. Waters at the 50th anniversary annual meeting of the Music Library Association in 1981, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
Carleton Sprague Smith, Carol June Bradley, and Philip L. Miller at the 50th anniversary annual meeting of the Music Library Association in 1981, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Edward N. Waters, Carleton Sprague Smith, Carol June Bradley, and Philip L. Miller at the 50th anniversary annual meeting of the Music Library Association in 1981, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
During the course of all of Bradley’s other work she continued to work on what became a career-long project. It culminated in the 2003 publication of the substantial reference work, *Index to Poetry in Music: A Guide to the Poetry Set as Solo Songs by 125 Major Composers*. As she noted in the acknowledgments in the book, the project began as a result of a reference question she could not answer in 1960. She does not reveal the question or if she could answer it after the completion of the project.

The Music Library Association awarded Carol June Bradley the organization’s highest award, the **MLA Citation**, in 2001 to recognize her outstanding record of scholarship and service to the field of music librarianship as well as her years educating the “lumps of coal” that passed through the music librarianship program.

**Text of the MLA Citation:**

In recognition of her important contributions as a librarian, educator, and scholar, the Music Library Association awards this citation to Carol June Bradley.

Her work in the area of classification and cataloging, and in the education of music librarians, is indispensable. Carol June Bradley’s most significant contribution has been the documentation of the history of the Association and of the development of our country’s music collections.

Music librarians of today and tomorrow will be forever grateful to her for capturing the lives of the pioneers of yesterday.
Presented on Saturday the 24th of February 2001 in New York City.

MLA
Paula D. Matthews, President

Graduates of the Music Librarianship Program under Jim Coover and Carol June Bradley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
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| 1974 | Wilma Cipolla  
|      | Judith Kaufman  
|      | Mary Alice Rhea |
| 1975 | Ann Seeley |
| 1979 | James Cassaro |
| 1981 | Walter Francuz |
| 1982 | Rita Vine  
|      | Sharon Grieggs Almquist |
| 1983 | Karen Roll Perone |
| 1984 | Gordon Richardson  
|      | Pamela Jones  
|      | Aida Barzyk |
| 1985 | Michael Finkelman |
| 1987 | Curt Steinzor  
|      | Charlotte Koleczynski  
|      | Roberta Chodacki Ford  
|      | Charmaine Wolfe  
|      | Brian Kujawa |
| 1988 | Jane Edmister Penner  
|      | Richard McRae  
|      | Mari Nishimura Itoh  
|      | May Wu |
| 1990 | Elinor Elder  
|      | Andrea Adema  
|      | Michael Zak |
| 1991 | Edward Komara  
|      | Alan Green |
| 1993 | Renée Fera Zogaib  
|      | Brian Ross |
| 1994 | Kevin Michki |
| 1995 | Karen Knapp Burke  
|      | Pei-jung Wu |
| 1997 | Leah Maragliano |
| 1998 | Kathy Blough  
|      | Matthew Sheehy |
| 1999 | G. Dale Vargason  
|      | John Philipp Gather  
|      | Peter (Carlin) Karlinisky |
| 2000 | Rebecca Beckner |
A description of Carol June Bradley’s life would not be complete without mentioning her generosity to friends and family. She was devoted to her family, including the array of cats and dogs that were fortunate enough to call her house home. Her passion for horticulture was evident in the many plants that thrive in the sunlit Music Library and more so in her own gardens. She enjoyed travel and made several trips in the company of her sister Janice. Despite her sometimes stern demeanor, she loved to laugh and it was a sound that often rang through the library.

Carol June Bradley in her garden at home in Kenmore

Carol June Bradley and her sister Janice Newman, November 2006 on trip through the Panama Canal
Carol June Bradley on board ship during trip to the Panama Canal, November 2006

Carol June Bradley and Jim Coover, 2003
Carol June Bradley and Jim Coover, August 1999

Carol June Bradley with friends Mrs. Well and Mrs. Karla
Carol June Bradley with her sister Janice Newman, and her nephew Bradley Newman with his family,
August 12, 2008
Bibliography of Carol Bradley’s Writings

Irving Female College, 1953.


“Notes of Some Pioneers: America’s First Music Librarians.” Notes. 43 (December 1986), 272-291.


