America’s Music Exhibition Provides Insights on Our Musical Heritage

Final Concert Event to be Held April 6 at Dvorak

Booth Library’s spring exhibition, America’s Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway will wrap up an event-filled semester on April 6 with a concert at Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. The concert will feature ten musical and dance performances; it begins at 7 p.m. and is free.

This event caps off a semester of programs held on the EIU campus and in six East Central Illinois communities since Jan. 11. The series focused on six genres of music that are considered uniquely American: blues and gospel, Broadway, jazz and swing, bluegrass and country, rock ‘n’ roll, and Latino and hip hop. All six genres of music will be represented in the April 6 concert.

Musical performers will include Reverend Robert, a local blues musician; Flat Mountain, a bluegrass group made up of Mark Esarey of Charleston, Dennis Hart of Effingham, Roger Hart of Olney and Phillip Cramer of Casey; Motherlode, featuring folk music by Gaye Harrison, Wendy Meyer and Althea Pendergast; and the rock band Mark Rubel and Friends. Rubel is a music instructor at Eastern and a longtime bassist for Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets.

The concert also will feature vocalist Marilyn Coles, the Unity Gospel Choir and the EIU Latin Jazz Combo. Dance performances will be presented by the EIU Dancers and the Zeta Phi Beta step dance team. In addition, a Broadway Showcase featuring area high school and college vocalists is planned.

Related exhibits about America’s Music are on display at Booth Library. For specific information on the exhibits, visit the Booth Library website.

The America’s Music program was led by Allen Lanham, dean of library services, and Paul Johnston, associate professor of jazz studies. It was being sponsored in part by Eastern Illinois University, College of Arts and Humanities, Booth Library, Doudna Fine Arts Center and the Coles County Arts Council. The program was made possible in part by a grant from the Ruth and Vaughn Jaenike Access to the Arts Outreach Program of the College of Arts and Humanities, EIU.

America’s Music is a project by the Tribeca Film Institute in collaboration with the American Library Association, Tribeca Flashpoint and the Society for American Music. It has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor.

National Library Week Events Announced

Celebrate with Us in Mid-April

National Library Week is right around the corner. In order to celebrate this year’s national theme, Communities Matter, Booth Library will hold several special events. Some of these, like the book sale, are longstanding spring traditions. Others, such as the third annual Edible Book Festival, are fast becoming cherished new traditions.

We will also celebrate another new tradition, the Booth Library Awards for Excellence in Student Research and Creativity, by announcing the names of winning submissions. We anticipate a fun and rewarding National Library Week for all members of the EIU and Charleston communities. Please join us at the library anytime during the week for informal celebration and in particular for one or more of the scheduled events. A schedule of events can be found on page two.
Highlighting a Collection: Donald and Suellyn Garner Illinois Sheet Music

Library graduate assistant Philip Mohr shares his insights on the Donald and Suellyn Garner Sheet Music Collection and the exhibit he created (on display in the library’s north lobby) highlighting the American music publishing scene in the decades around 1900:

When Laura Mondt first processed the collection while she was a graduate assistant from 2010-11, I worked in the same space for IRAD (Illinois Regional Archives Depository). I had no direct involvement in her project, but she would show me some gems now and then. By “gems” I mean songs we recognized, funny titles, or interesting cover art. Racism is a serious topic, but some of the titles, such as “The Isle of Bong-Bong,” are hilariously orientalist.

That’s how I became familiar with the Garner Collection in the first place. From scant foundational knowledge and the online catalog, I approached the collection for the America’s Music exhibit. It represents an era of music publishing focused on home or small-venue performance, not recording and not concert halls and arenas.

A researcher can approach the collection in a variety of ways. The cover art shows the work of commercial advertisement artists and lithographers in industrial America. Print shops have a rich history to be told. Some publications have stunning impressionist scenes, some are simply block lettering and a minimal geographic design, others are clearly art deco, and others still are just awful renderings. The lyrics and music, largely by Illinois poets and composers, reflect major concerns of their time. The Civil War, World War I, orientalism, and Prohibition are all featured. Local themes such as Chicago marches and songs about life on the Illinois prairie shine through against the national and international concerns of the late 19th and early 20th century. The lyrics provide the story, but the music could also suit anyone studying ragtime, blues, ballads, waltzes, and two-steps.

I encourage anyone with an interest in historic music, poetry, and art to take a look at the Garner Collection at Booth Library.

The Garner Collection contains the work of Illinois composers, lyricists, and cover art designers. The materials are available for researchers to peruse in Booth Library’s Special Collections. The Garners, longtime residents of Charleston, graciously donated the collection to Booth Library.

Symposium Examined Lasting Influence of Ancient Greek Civilization on Modern Life

Booth Library’s second symposium on ancient civilizations took place in the fall semester of 2012. The wide array of events included a keynote presentation by Ms. Ioanna Efthymiadou, Consul General of Greece. We celebrated the wide-ranging achievements of the people of ancient Greece with an opening reception featuring Greek food, scholarly presentations by Eastern faculty members, administrators, and students as well as exhibits and film presentations.

The symposium was the brainchild of Dr. Wafeek Wahby of Eastern’s School of Technology. We thank him for his tireless efforts in bringing this wonderful series of events not only to Booth Library, but to all of EIU and the surrounding community. We look forward to his next scholarly project.

Scheduled Events for National Library Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Storytime</td>
<td>Saturday, April 13</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Ballenger Teachers Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edible Book Festival (register to enter by April 12)</td>
<td>Monday, April 15th</td>
<td>5:00-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Marvin Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Sale</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 17</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Alumni Quad: outside the south entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student research awards announced</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 17</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Room 4440</td>
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New Electronic Reference Sources

The Gale Virtual Reference Library provides online, cross-searchable access to a core collection of reference titles. Booth Library acquired the platform this year with the following startup titles:

- American Decades
- Encyclopedia of World Biography
- Encyclopedia of Religion
- History Behind the Headlines
- UXL Encyclopedia of Alternative Energy
- UXL Encyclopedia of Drugs & Addictive Substances
- CaseBase 2: Cases in Global Business
- Novels For Students
- Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine
- New Dictionary of the History of Ideas
- Scholarships, Fellowships & Loans
- American Law Yearbook
- Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations
- Encyclopedia of Education
- Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film

Other Electronic Reference Sources

The Gale Literature Resource Center provides easily searchable access to the most heavily used literary research volumes. The contract for this resource was still being finalized at the time of publication. The database is expected to go live before the end of the spring semester. Please watch for an announcement on the library website. We look forward to providing this useful resource to our literary scholars. The titles provided in the Literature Resource Center are:

- Children’s Literature Review
- Contemporary Literary Criticism
- Dictionary of Literary Biography
- Drama Criticism
- Poetry Criticism
- Short Story Criticism
- Something About the Author

Booth Library offers a large selection of online reference sources covering a wide range of disciplines including literature, biological science, earth science, art, music, and philosophy. General reference resources are also available online. These include Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, World Databank, and International Financial Statistics.

To find links to these resources, visit the library website and select the Reference Sources link under the Search menu. Our reference librarians are always ready to help you find and use the best source of information for your needs. Assistance is available in person at the Reference Desk, online through our Ask a Librarian service, or by phone at 217-581-6072.

Don’t forget print reference!

Booth Library maintains an extensive and up-to-date collection of reference materials. While more and more sources are becoming available online, many reference sources (including subject encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, and local interest materials) remain available only in print. If you can’t find the information you seek online, it’s possible that it is available in print only! Remember to ask a reference librarian for help and don’t hesitate to browse our excellent (and yes, up-to-date!) collection of print reference materials. They are located on both the east and west sides of the Reference Desk on the library’s 3000 level.

Stats Corner

In fiscal year 2012:

- Library patrons charged 114,677 items
- Building gate count was 511,964 items
- Interlibrary Loan processed 23,546 items
Spotlight on the Ballenger Teachers Center

The Ballenger Teachers Center (BTC), located on Booth Library’s 3000 level north, has become an invaluable resource for Eastern’s faculty and students, local families, young adults, and many others. The 4,750-square-foot center hosts a variety of programs throughout the year. Storytimes are a staple, generally offered on Saturday mornings for children ages 3 to 7. These programs include not only stories, but also craft making and other activities. The next storytime will be held on April 6 at 10:00 a.m. The BTC also hosts field trips from local schools, continuing education programs for area teachers, and special events related to Booth Library’s exhibits and programs.

A new program, made possible by a Faculty Partnership Grant from the Office of Faculty Development, is the Young Adult Reading Group, affectionately referred to as YARG! The group sponsors reading events such as the African American Read In, which took place in the BTC earlier this semester. More information on YARG! is available on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/yargeiu.

Many of the BTC’s programs are led by student interns, providing them with valuable real world experience.

Database of the Issue: TeachingBooks.net

TeachingBooks.net is a portal to thousands of multimedia resources that can enhance and enliven your reading experiences and the reading experiences of children both in and outside of the classroom. This resource adds a multimedia dimension to the reading experiences of children’s and young adult books. The site includes thousands of resources about fiction and nonfiction books used in the K–12 environment, with every resource selected to encourage the integration of multimedia author and book materials into reading and library activities.

Booth Library provides access to TeachingBooks.net through a subscription with the vendor. It is available through the library website under Resources by Subject / Education / Related and Interdisciplinary Databases.

Call for Presenters

In the upcoming semesters, Booth Library will host scholarly events on the decade of the 1960s in America, the cultural heritage of Islamic civilizations, and several other themes. To propose an exhibit, presentation, or other contribution to these events, please contact Peggy Manley at pamanley@eiu.edu or at 217-581-6061.