

MMAP Newsletter 1/1, January 2003

Happy New Year!

New Research Centre at Memorial:

Is there a Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media, and Place at Memorial University? Well, the answer is – almost. A proposal to establish the Centre has gone forward to the senior administration of the university this month. In the somewhat academic language of such proposals, the Centre is described as follows: “The proposed Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media, and Place (MMAP) will further research on a wide range of issues concerning music as a localized practice in a modern world of globalized communications media; further, it will endeavour to be a meeting place enabling dialogue and exchange among Memorial University scholars with complementary research interests as well as ethnomusicologists, folklorists, and other academics beyond the province’s boundaries. Additionally, MMAP will serve as a bridge between traditional music communities and scholars who work on issues of music, media, and place.”

Do we have a home? The answer is – YES! Thanks to some effective negotiating by Dr. Tom Gordon, Director of the School of Music, and to the very supportive response of the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation and the Department of Works, Services and Transportation, we are pleased to report that we will begin our official existence in early January in space on the 3rd floor of the Annex of the Arts and Culture Centre of St. John’s. We would like to sincerely thank Minister Julie Bettney for approving our use of this space, as well as Assistant Deputy Minister Heather

MacLellan for her work in shepherding the proposal through the necessary government channels. Once we’ve had a bit of time to arrange the furniture, there will be an event to thank our government collaborators and to celebrate new beginnings. In the meanwhile, stop by and see our new digs.
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Lecture Series: Music, Media, and Culture

The School of Music and Folklore Department of Memorial University, in conjunction with the Canada Research Chair in Traditional Music, has inaugurated an interdisciplinary lecture series in 2002-03. Distinguished scholars from the international and local academic community are featured in a series of presentations regarding historical and contemporary modes in which music is created, transmitted, and circulated. In the fall term, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Marcel Bénéteau (U. of Sudbury) who spoke about the francophone folksong communities in the vicinity of Detroit and Windsor, and Dr. Colette Moloney (Waterford Institute of Technology) who presented an illustrated history of the Gaelic harp and the Bunting manuscripts that have contributed to the revival of the instrument.

Mark the following winter-term lectures on your calendar:

Monday, **January 20**, 7:00 p.m., Education, E2018A. Dr. Johnne Devlin Trew. (Memorial University) -- “Irish music and

media: Thomas Moore, the United Irishmen and the power of radical memory.”

Dr. Devlin Trew, a dual citizen of Ireland and Canada, is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Memorial University. She has B.Mus. (Ottawa), M.A. (McGill), M.L.I.S. (Western Ontario) and Ph.D. (Limerick) degrees. Her doctoral dissertation was entitled “Music, place and community: culture and Irish heritage in the Ottawa Valley.”

Her current academic research concerns the Irish diaspora, most particularly in the Canadian context. Areas of interest include: ethnicity and identity, cultural geography, critical theory, cultural policy, traditional music and dance studies, popular culture studies, French-Canadian culture and civilization, Irish and Canadian studies. She is also active as a musician (singer and player of flutes, whistles, piano) primarily involved in Irish and French-Canadian traditional music.

Wednesday, **February 19**, 7:00 p.m. School of Music, D.F. Cook Recital Hall. Dr. Paul Theberge (Carleton University) – “The Network Studio: Historical and Technological Paths to a New Ideal in Music Making.”

Dr. Theberge is a Canada Research Chair at Carleton University where he studies diverse issues relating to music technology. His award-winning book, *Any Sound You Can Imagine; Making Music, Consuming Technology* (1997) has challenged the way we think about the social and artistic implications of technological change. He has published articles on popular music, media, and communications.

Wednesday, **March 19**, 7:00 p.m. School of Music, D.F. Cook Recital Hall. Dr. Neil Rosenberg (Memorial University) – “Sound Intelligence: Discography as Ethnography.”

Dr. Rosenberg needs little introduction to Newfoundland audiences either as a musician with Crooked Stovepipe, the Black Auks, and other ensembles, as a popular professor of Folklore, or a world-class

scholar of bluegrass and country music. His classic book, *Bluegrass: A History*, has recently been translated into Japanese. Other publications such as *Transforming Tradition* continue to influence how we think about the dynamism of musical practices.



New Research Centre at Memorial continued from Page 1:

The title abbreviates to MMAP. Call it the “Music MAP,” if you like, or just think of it as a “map” with a difference. The difference? Well, for one thing, the music of Newfoundland and Labrador is at the center of this MMAP. But we hope, eventually, to provide a facility that attracts scholars and musicians from other parts of Canada and other countries as well.

What sort of work will affiliates of the Centre do? In general terms, the Mandate that you see below, will frame the projects we undertake. The Executive Board consisting of university and community representatives helped draft these terms of reference. In more specific terms, we hope that MMAP will not only serve the research interests of the Memorial University faculty associated with it but will also serve to enable research projects by community researchers, and scholars from other places. MMAP could be a sort of coordinator and hub for a variety of other initiatives. So let me know your ideas.

This is the first time I’ve had a chance to thank all those who have agreed to serve as members of the Executive Committee and Community Advisors group for the new Centre. I’m confident that we can develop many exciting projects with such fine expertise from different regions of the province and from diverse cultural perspectives as well. *(By Beverley Diamond, Director, MMAP Research Centre)*



A Traditional Music Website in the Works:

A collaborative application to the GradSWEP program at Memorial University, drafted by the Canada Research Chair with the support of the St. John's Folk Arts Council, was successful. This provides initial funding to development a website that will bring exciting initiatives relating to the traditional music of Newfoundland and Labrador to public attention. We also hope the website will be interactive, providing a forum for conversations about topics we think are urgent, near and dear, or fun.

If you know of anyone who would like to apply for a few hours of work as website designer, have them contact Bev Diamond (bdiamond@mun.ca).

If you have ideas for images, sounds, or issues that should appear on the website, please use the same email address.

Mandate of the Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media and Place

- To foster pride in the cultural uniqueness of places and communities, not only by valuing contemporary practises and working with musicians on modern issues regarding appropriation and access, but also by working to make historical materials in the rich regional archives of Atlantic Canada in particular, come alive through extended documentation, multimedia presentation, and scholarly engagement with issues of race, gender, ethnicity, class, and other aspects of collective identity.
- To offer a model for understanding problems of cultural “difference” as articulated in music itself – that is, in the social relations of the production and reception of music and in the culturally shared codes of its sonic gestures. In particular, this view of multiculturalism will differ from “top-down multiculturalism”¹ or other neutralizing, rosy-cast representations of “diversity.” The research should

¹ That is, official or government sponsored appropriations of multicultures in the construction of a modern notion of Canada's cultural identity.

contribute to healthier cultural interaction as Newfoundland and Labrador become increasingly plural.

- To advocate on issues of intellectual property and access to traditional knowledge.
- To enhance the profile of Canadian music scholars within the international academic community through an aggressive programme of publication.
- To work with educators and community organizations to facilitate the dissemination of cultural resources materials and the development of curriculum materials on the oral cultures of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as diverse communities elsewhere in Canada and internationally.
- To enable a deeper understanding of the ways media are invested with meaning by the study of the whole circle from live performance, through mediation, through reception. By this means, the project will develop a generation of scholars and artists in Canada who have more agency in making media products effective as forms of social action.
- To establish connections between the Centre and similarly mandated institutions and groups in provincial, national, and international jurisdictions, for the exchange of information and ideas.
- To promote international cultural exchange and dialogue.



In Brief:

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Johanne Devlin Trew as the first Postdoctoral Research Associate of the MMAP Centre. See “Lecture Series” for further information about her achievements and research.

Dr. Kati Szego has recently returned from an exciting sabbatical during which she continued her research on Hawaiian vocal styles and also taught for Semester at Sea.

York University Ph.D. student, Klisala Harrison, will be affiliated with the MMAP Centre during the Winter term where she will work with Dr. Diamond. She is

researching music in the context of First Nations theatre productions in Canada.

MUNFLA Doings:

The Memorial University Folklore and Language Archive has entered into a productive collaboration with MMAP to carry forward several important initiatives. With funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, secured by Dr. Beverly Diamond, MUNFLA Curator Patricia Fulton visited the Indiana University Traditional Music Archive in October to scout out their approach to new technological developments in the digitization of sound archives, and to learn about their community outreach programs. She has compiled a valuable report and list of suggestions on the basis of her visit. The Indiana Archive was the model on which MUNFLA was created and it remains one of the largest sound archives for traditional music in the world.

CFI funds also allowed us to schedule a workshop on In-Magic directed by Dr. Johanne Devlin Trew. In-Magic is a much admired multimedia cataloguing system under consideration by MUNFLA as they contemplate the huge and complex task of moving into the digital era. Dr. Trew's demonstration of this system, used in the Limerick University sound archive that she helped to establish, was extremely valuable.



Name that CD (Series):

Peter Narváez initiated a valuable archival CD project some time ago to celebrate an anniversary of the Memorial University Folklore and Language Archive. With Dr. Narváez' guidance, graduate students Justin Partyka and Jessica Grant have compiled a wonderful anthology of songs and tunes from MUNFLA collections. With a little help from the program funds of the Canada Research Chair, the project is now close to completion. The biggest challenge is what to call both the CD and the series of archival CDs that we hope to produce in the wake of this first one. So Peter and team hereby

announce the chance of a lifetime: A NAME THE MUNFLA CD CONTEST. For the truly inspired there is also a NAME THE CD SERIES CONTEST. The prize? A free CD of course. Maybe a T-shirt too.

Traditional Music On Stage at the Arts and Culture Centre:

Thanks to an initiative by the Arts and Culture Division of the provincial Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation, the federal Department of Canadian Heritage is helping to facilitate two projects that will bring some extraordinary traditional musicians to Newfoundland and Labrador in 2003. Watch for Fiddle Encounters in **May and June** when some of Newfoundland and Labrador's extraordinary fiddlers share the stage with performers from other parts of Canada in a month-long series of concerts, school and community workshops. CBC's Glen Tilley will record it all for posterity.

There's more. Also benefiting from the financial support of Canadian Heritage is a truly extraordinary concert of Inuit performers on **February 18**. If you haven't heard Inuit vocal games, often called "throat singing" you are in for a real treat. Furthermore, the Inuit duo of Kathy Kettler and Kendra Tagoona will combine forces with Alex Glenfield, a Canadian who has mastered a range of Tuvan vocal styles. Tuvan singing uses the overtones that most audiences don't distinguish but perceive as part of the quality or timbre of the voice. The Inuit performers first collaborated with Tuvan singers a year ago and are eager to develop the possibilities for combining these unique, world-famous vocal techniques. They haven't heard Inuit-Tuvan music yet in Toronto or New York or Paris. Only in St. John's!

The MMAP Research Centre has been involved with the planning of these series.

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