

The Music Library Association is pleased to announce the two research awards for 2006, presented recently at MLA's 75th Anniversary Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee:

The Dena Epstein Award for Archival and Library Research in American Music was established through a generous gift from Morton and Dena Epstein in 1995. The 2006 award goes to **Robin Rausch and David Hursh**. Ms. Rausch, a Senior Music Specialist at the Library of Congress, is writing a full-length biography on the extraordinary legacy of Marian MacDowell, the wife and widow of Edward MacDowell. Marian MacDowell was the guiding force behind the founding of the MacDowell Colony, the first and oldest artists' colony of its kind in America, where creative artists have been gathering to work since 1907. After Edward's death in 1908, Marian devoted the rest of her life to her husband's vision of a place where artists could work undisturbed while benefiting from interaction with other creative workers. Aaron Copland's initial residency at the colony in 1925 provided him his first contact with artists in other disciplines, an experience that gave him new insight into art in America. A former piano student of MacDowell, Marian raised funds by traveling around the country performing her husband's music and lecturing on the colony. Her work shaped the agendas of countless music and women's clubs throughout America in the first half of the 20th century. The MacDowell Colony, on the threshold of its centennial anniversary, continues to play an important role in the arts today.

Ms. Rausch's research involves the use of several archives on the east coast, including the rich MacDowell collections at the Library of Congress. She will use the Epstein Award funds for travel to Boston where she will work with related papers and archives at the Boston Public Library and the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College.

David Hursh, Music Librarian at East Carolina University, is researching the life and times of Alice Person, a name little known outside of North Carolina but a woman who had a lasting impact on the culture of that region for several reasons. She was the promoter of a patent medicine that not only seemed to work, but brought wealth and notoriety to the family, and a pianist of some ability, whose published arrangements of southern folk tunes brought even more fame. Her great, great grandson is an ECU alumnus who donated her music to that institution. From that donation, Mr. Hursh has been bringing together the disparate strands of Person's story. He has mounted a digital exhibit concerning Person and the material at ECU that has garnered awards from the North Carolina Society of Historians. There is an unpublished autobiography that covers some, but not all, of Person's life.

Mr. Hursh's ultimate project is to complete and publish that book-length manuscript. The Epstein Award will allow him to finish work on the digital exhibit and help support travel to regional collections for his research.

MLA grants the **Walter Gerboth Award** in support of members who are in the first five years of their professional library careers, to assist research-in-progress in music or music librarianship. The 2006 recipient is **Christopher Mehrens**, Music Reference Librarian at the Cunningham Memorial Library of the Indiana State University, Terre Haute. He

received his Master of Library Science from Indiana University in 2002 and his Ph.D. in Historical Musicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. His dissertation is titled: "The Critical and Musical Work of Deems Taylor in Light of Contemporary Cultural Patterns." Dr. Mehrens has broadened the scope of his current research to encompass music criticism in the United States and Canada. His research will result in a comprehensive annotated bibliography dedicated to American music criticism, the first such work. Whereas current bibliographies of music criticism or analysis are focused on composers and the reception of their work, this project is primarily focused on the critics and their work.

Dr. Mehrens will use Gerboth Award funds for travel to Washington, D.C. At the Library of Congress Music Division, he will explore their extensive primary source material related to American music critics.