



# Annual Report 2019–2020



**MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**College of Media and Entertainment**



## About the Center for Popular Music

Founded in 1985, the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University is designated one of the state's prestigious Centers of Excellence. The CPM is a research center with one of the country's oldest and largest popular music archives, a world-class collection of more than one million items relating to every aspect of folk and commercial music making in America from colonial times to the present. In addition to its function as a repository of historical materials, the Center also maintains a robust calendar of public programs, an active internet presence, a Grammy-winning record label, and various other outreach activities.

Originally an independent unit within the administrative structure of MTSU, in 2010 The Center became part of the university's College of Media and Entertainment. Its resources and activities are not limited to the goals of the college, however. The CPM serves the students, faculty, and programs of MTSU as a whole, as well as an international community of researchers and musicians, and the general public.

**The mission of the Center for Popular Music is to promote research and scholarship on American vernacular music, and to foster an understanding of the nation's diverse musical culture and its global reach.**

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## CPM Joins MTSU's Center for Chinese Music and Culture to Present Su Yang and Jim Lauderdale

One of this year's highlights was a collaborative effort between the Center for Popular Music and MTSU's Center for Chinese Music and Culture (CCMC). *The River as Song* brought celebrated Chinese folk-rock star Su Yang to Middle Tennessee for a series of musical and educational events with Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale.

A major star in his home country and a rare example of a Chinese rock musician who performs his own, regional material, Su Yang is known for combining the folk arts traditions of the Yellow River basin where he grew up with contemporary rock sounds and lyrical poetry. Grammy-winner Jim Lauderdale is an Americana artist, prolific songwriter, radio

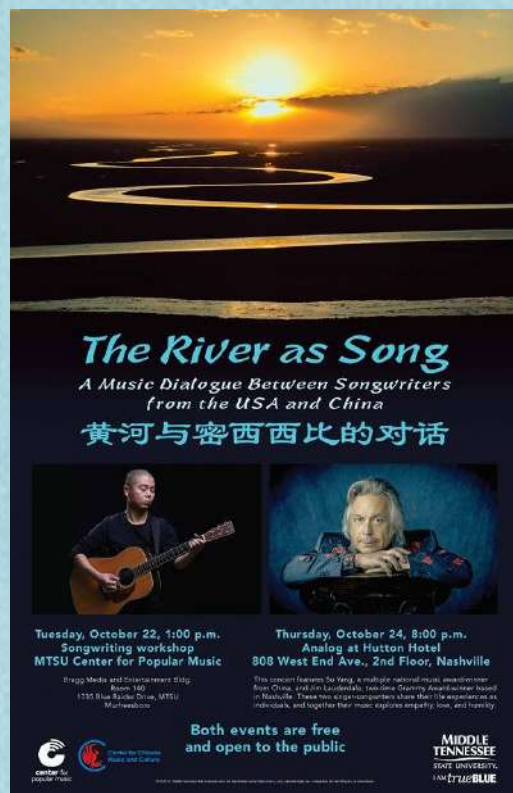




show host, and someone who also draws on rich folk-based traditions like blues, bluegrass, and classic country.

Over the course of several days, Yang and Lauderdale toured the CPM and CCMC, made Edison-style cylinder recordings on 100-year-old equipment with the CPM's audio specialist Martin Fisher, and offered a songwriting workshop to students in the department of Recording Industry. There was also a film screening of a documentary about Su Yang with a moderated discussion.

The programming culminated with a free concert at Analog, a premier listening room concert venue in Nashville's Hutton Hotel. There the two stars played to a packed house, backed by a group of Nashville pros and with special guest appearances by CCMC Director Dr. Mei Han and CPM Director Dr. Greg Reish.



## Grant Projects



Su Yang, Jim Lauderdale, and Center for Chinese Music and Culture Director Dr. Mei Han during their songwriting workshop with MTSU students in the CPM reading room (photo by Alan Poizner).



In Fall 2019 the Center for Popular Music staff completed the fourth and final phase of its archival renovation project funded by a generous grant of \$205,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant program. The physical renovation of the CPM archival storage room, involving the installation of new compact shelving and new LED lighting, was completed in June 2019 and detailed in last





year's Annual Report. The final phase of the twelve-month project involved a large-scale reorganization of the archival collection, shifting, evaluating, and spacing out the materials for better access and increased room for growth. Completed in October 2019, this massive undertaking involving every member of the CPM staff has improved its usability and safe preservation dramatically, and made room for the CPM's world-class collection to continue growing!



Sacred songbooks from the CPM's rare book archival collection, relocated and reorganized on brand new shelving units installed during NEH-funded renovation.



The Center for Popular Music and its record label Spring Fed Records received a matching grant of \$5,850 from the Tennessee Arts Commission's Arts Project Support program to record, produce, and promote a new album of traditional Middle Tennessee fiddle music by two young local musicians: Austin Derryberry and Trenton "Tater" Caruthers.

These two are extraordinarily talented and devoted practitioners of the old-time music as it was played a century ago in Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland Plateau regions. Austin hails from Bedford County and is a recent graduate of MTSU Audio Production program, while Tater is still in high school in Putnam County.

The album was recorded over two intense days in July 2019 in one of the recording Industry Department's studios right here in the College of Media and Entertainment. MFA graduate

student Gleb Iarovoi engineered, mixed, and mastered the album under the supervision of RIM faculty member Bill Crabtree, while CPM Director Greg Reish produced the project. (See *Events* and *Spring Fed Records* for more information below)



L-R: Conner Vlietstra, Tater Caruthers, Austin Derryberry, and Corbin Hayslett recording *Tennessee Breakdown* in MTSU's recording studio.





The Center received a \$20,000 Preservation and Implementation grant from the Grammy Museum (the CPM's third Grammy grant) to digitize and catalog a significant portion of The John Hartford Audio Tape Collection. The project is to preserve, digitize, listen to, tag, and fully catalog 573 cassette tapes of jam sessions recorded or collected by the celebrated Nashville songwriter and progressive bluegrass icon, John Hartford. The jam tapes capture informal music making by some of bluegrass, country, and folk music's most important and influential artists.



One of nearly 600 tapes digitized and soon-to-be cataloged as part of the John Hartford Jam Tape project. This cassette captured a home jam session with bluegrass legends Earl Scruggs, Benny Martin, Joe Stuart, and John Hartford.

The project began in July 2019 and runs through the end of December 2020. At the time of this report the digitization and image scanning are complete, as is about 75% of the listening and data collection (song titles, personnel, etc.). When complete, the project will offer a dedicated, searchable website with audio samples, and the digitized audio will be available to researchers.



## Sounding Spirit

The Center for Popular Music was selected as one of four prestigious archives to participate in Sounding Spirit, a project of Emory University's Center for Digital Scholarship to digitize rare and culturally diverse sacred music songbooks from 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century America. GFunded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the project makes "accessible the texts that mediate race, place, and religion in American music history and culture," using the feature-rich Redux platform developed at Emory.

This year the CPM participated in an NEH planning grant, to digitize a small number of books and test the resulting website and access. The success of the pilot program is the basis for a full implementation grant from the NEH, which would commence in 2021 and digitize more than 300 rare songbooks from the Center's collection (the largest number of any partner institution). For more information and samples from the pilot project, visit: <https://soundingspirit.org>.



## Acquisitions

The CPM collections continued to grow this year, as the archival renovation and reorganization entered its final phase. The COVID-19 lockdown that began in March restricted donations severely in the last quarter of FY 2019–20. Nevertheless, the CPM took in some exciting and wide-ranging collections this year. These are some highlights.

### *The Jeff Bagato Fanzine Collection*

This collection comprises many hundreds of underground fanzines (also called simply “zines”), typically low budget and self-published titles dedicated to punk, indie rock, experimental, and other “underground” musical cultures. Jeff Bagato published the alternative rock zine *Mole* in the 1990s, and was familiar with the Center because he used to sell them to the CPM. When it came time to find an archival home for his vast collection, he knew the CPM would be a perfect fit.



*Toxic Flyer*, one of the many fanzine titles in the vast Jeff Bagato Collection.

### *The Beverly Ross Collection*

Brill Building songwriter Beverly Ross wrote many early rock & roll hits like “Lollipop” (recorded by The Chordettes), “Judy’s Turn To Cry” (recorded by Lesley Gore), “Dim Dim The Lights” (recorded by Bill Haley and His Comets), “Dixieland Rock” (recorded by Elvis Presley), and “Candy Man” (recorded by Roy Orbison). The Beverly Ross collection includes manuscripts, business papers, two theatrical musicals with scores, various scripts and narratives, and correspondence.



A test pressing of Beverly Ross’s “Dim Dim the Lights.”

### *The Travis Stimeling Oral History Collection*

Musicologist and noted country music historian Dr. Travis Stimeling donated a digital collection of interviews and oral histories he conducted during the research for his book *Nashville Cats: Record Production in Music City* (Oxford University Press, 2020). Among





the many significant studio musicians, producers, and music businesspeople he interviewed are such legends as Bergen White, Buddy Spicher, Wayne Moss, Harold Bradley, Rose Drake, Fred Cannon, Charlie McCoy, and Ray Stevens.



Singer LaVern Baker with dancer Harold Cromer. One of many extraordinary images in the Colin Escott Collection.

### ***The Colin Escott Photographic Collection***

Distinguished author, historian, and Hank Williams biographer Colin Escott donated 3.5 linear feet of manuscript materials, including rare and valuable photographs and related ephemera. The collection features original and in some cases unique photos of blues, country, and rock & roll musicians, including such greats as Elvis Presley, Hank Williams, Johnny

Cash, Carl Perkins, Sam Phillips, B.B. King, Howlin' Wolf, and James Brown, as well as hundreds of more obscure figures.

### ***The "Jimmy Jazz" Flanigan Collection***

Jimmy "Jazz" Flanigan started making music professionally in high school, playing piano, drums, trombone, guitar, banjo, pennywhistle, and many other percussion instruments. He served in Germany as a pilot during World War II, and also organized the entertainment for the officers' club. Back in New Jersey he led several bands that played local clubs and events and even served as music director for concerts of Broadway-based musicals. He remained a lifelong collector and armchair popular music historian. The Jimmy "Jazz" Flanigan Collection consists of photographs, programs, and performance audio recordings, as well as books, commercial sound recordings, and over 1,000 pieces of sheet music.



Multi-instrumentalist and popular music collector Jimmy "Jazz" Flanigan.





## Programming

The Center presented an exciting and diverse slate of programs and events this year, including numerous musical performances on campus, in Nashville, and beyond. Unfortunately, several more exciting programs scheduled for the spring were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, including (most notably) a panel discussion on women in the music industry with musicians, music journalists, and music businesswomen from on and off campus, a Bjork virtual reality listening party at MTSU's Chris Young Café, and a bluegrass-focused book talk with musical performance by Tommy Goldsmith. On the plus side, CPM staff working from home were able to plan engaging online events and will continue to do so into the 2020–2021 academic year (see *COVID-19 Pandemic Response* below).

### *The River As Song with Su Yang and Jim Lauderdale*

Highlight event; see description on page 1 above.

### *Belen Escobedo y Panfilo's Güera*

The CPM presented Spring Fed Records artist Belen Escobedo in her first appearance in Middle Tennessee for a variety of events in October 2019. One of the last musicians still performing the old songs and fiddle music from the Tex-Mex borderlands, Belen Escobedo is an authentic singer and player of the style that was common in the area nearly a century ago. While in Tennessee she

performed at the Country Music Hall of Fame, at Nashville's Delgado Guitars, for students at Glencliff High School, and in MTSU's Chris Young Café. Accompanying her under the band name Panfilo's Güera, were her husband Ramon Gutierrez (tololoche bass and vocals) and CPM Director Greg Reish (bajo sexto).



Poster for Belen Escobedo's October appearance on the MTSU campus, designed by Heather Moulder of Hatch Show Print and printed by students from the MTSU Department of Art and Design.





### *Southern Girls Rock Camp Reunion Show*

The CPM has long supported the annual Southern Girls Rock Camp with educational programming during the camp and a SGRC Collection in the archive. This year we joined MTSU's Albert Gore Research center and Department of Recording Industry to present the Southern Girls Rock Camp Reunion Show in the Chris Young Café. The featured performer was camp alum and breakout indie rock phenomenon Sophie Allison, better known as Soccer Mommy.



### *Tennessee Breakdown Release Shows*

To celebrate the release of Spring Fed Records' Tennessee Breakdown, the CPM organized two local performances: one at MTSU's Chris Young Café and another at Adams Place, a Murfreesboro retirement community. Additional release shows slated for Bedford and Putnam Counties were canceled because of the pandemic.



L-R: Corbin Hayslett, Tater Caruthers, and Austin Derryberry performing at Murfreesboro's Adams Place.



## *Mexican Guitars*

In conjunction with Dr. Reish's brand new class in Mexican and Tejano Music, the CPM presented two public programs on Mexican guitar traditions.



In October 2019 Dr. Randall Kohl of the Universidad Veracruzana gave a lecture-demonstration on the music of Octaviano Yañez. One of the most celebrated musicians in Mexico at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Yañez composed music that bridged the classical, popular, and folk traditions of the time.

In November we welcomed Manuel Delgado, impresario and proprietor of Delgado Guitars in Nashville. Delgado is a luthier, a third generation instrument builder from an award-winning family of Mexican-American artisans. During his presentation he talked about his craft, the legacy of his family, and his many entrepreneurial endeavors. Delgado also brought a variety of guitars and Mexican string instruments with him for students to see and try out.



Manuel Delgado with just a few of his many wonderful creations.





### ***Brown Bag Lunch Talks***

The CPM's Brown Bag Lunch Talk series this year featured two engaging and well-attended presentations. Katie Rainge-Briggs, a PhD student in MTSU's Public History program and former graduate assistant at the Center, gave a thought-provoking talk about the Fisk Jubilee Singers and urged a reevaluation of their legacy based on archival sources.

In the spring, famed radio DJ and producer, Americana tastemaker, and WMOT Program Director Jessie Scott talked about her trailblazing career as a woman in the radio industry. Scott's fascinating talk about her four decades in radio was entitled "A Pioneer My Whole Career," and can be viewed in full via the CPM's YouTube channel by following [this link](#).



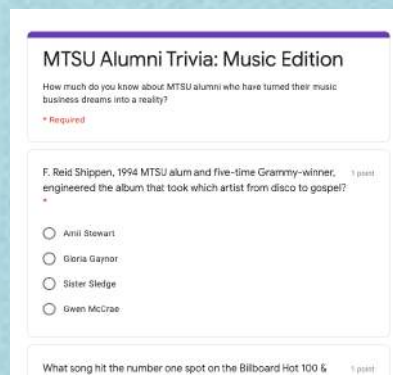
PhD student Katie Rainge-Briggs talks about the legacy of the world-famous Fisk Jubilee Singers, an a cappella choral group from Nashville's Fisk University (one of the nation's oldest HCBUs). The Jubilee Singers were founded in 1871 and are still going strong today.



Jessie Scott, "A Pioneer My Whole Career"

### ***Virtual Listening Parties and Online Trivia***

When the COVID-19 lockdown began in March, CPM staff led by Librarian Stephanie Bandel began planning online programs like our Virtual Listening and Viewing Parties. Three programs came together in the spring. The first was a playlist of music selections trending on YouTube, followed by Assistant Librarian Ashley Armstrong's Stay at Home Listening playlist, and finally Assistant Archivist Olivia Beaudry's Old Grey Whistle Test. The virtual listening parties were accompanied by discussions on the Google Classrooms platform. CPM Staff also created an online trivia quiz based on the music industry success of MTSU Recording Industry alumni.







Spring Fed Records artist Belen Escobedo (center) performing at the Festival of Texas Fiddling in December with Ramon Gutierrez and Stevie Ray Vavages.

### ***Festival of Texas Fiddling***

The CPM continued its proud supported the Festival of Texas Fiddling in December 2019. The event takes place in a restored 1870s dance hall in Blanco, in the heart of the Texas hill country, and showcases the wide range of fiddling styles that flourish in the lone star state. Spring Fed Records artists Belen Escobedo and Felipe Pérez were featured performers, while CPM staff members John Fabke and Greg Reish offered their talents to accompany a variety of musicians on the main stage and in the workshop tent.

### ***Music City Mariachi***

The Center for Popular Music also continued its support for the Music City Mariachi event, *México en el Corazón*, now in its second successful year. This celebration of Mexican music, dance, and culture at Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center is organized by Nashville's La Tradición Music and Casa de la Cultura Latino Americana.

### ***Ken Burns's Country Music***

Documentarian Ken Burns debuted his eight-part documentary on country music in September 2019. The CPM was one of the distinguished institutions that provided archival material and expertise to the project. Many of the CPM's photos that appeared in the film came from the massive Alan L. Mayor Collection, which documents extensively Nashville's late 20<sup>th</sup> century music scene.



Photographer Alan Mayor, whose work appeared in the *Ken Burns Country Music* documentary miniseries.



## Spring Fed Records

Spring Fed Records is the Center for Popular Music’s in-house, Grammy-winning record label, which came to MTSU in 2014 from the Arts Center of Cannon County. Spring Fed is a documentary record label devoted to preserving and disseminating folk music from around the Southern U.S.

During FY 2019–2020 Spring Fed Records entered into a new agreement with Burnside Distribution Agreement of Portland, Oregon. Burnside specializes in helping small, independent, and niche labels maximize their visibility in the marketplace and reach potential customers.



MFA student Gleb Iarvoi at the controls during the recording of *Tennessee Breakdown*.

Undoubtedly one of the year’s highlights for Spring Fed was the recording and release of *Tennessee Breakdown*, an original album of old-time Middle Tennessee fiddling by Austin Derryberry and Trenton “Tater” Caruthers. Supported by a Tennessee Arts Commission grant, the project was recorded and mixed in MTSU’s state-of-the-art studios by MFA student Gleb Iarvoi. Other musicians on the album are Courtney Derryberry, Conner Vlietstra, Corbin Hayslett, and Greg Reish. Legendary photographer Alan Messer (who worked the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Cash, and practically every major rock and country star since about 1970) took the album photos. Spring Fed Records manager John Fabke was responsible for the art design and layout, and CPM Director Greg Reish produced the project.

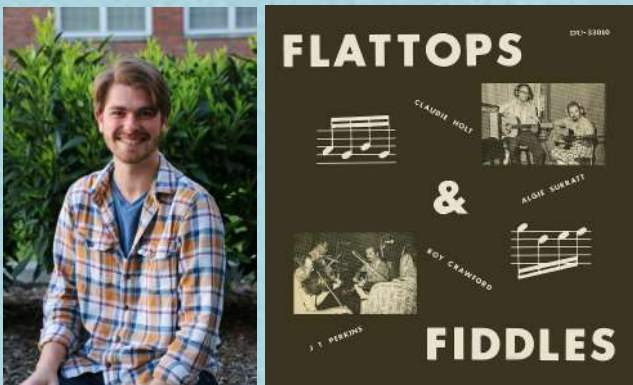
At the time of this report, *Tennessee Breakdown* has been submitted for Grammy consideration in three categories: Folk Album of Year, Album Notes, and Art Design.



Cover of *Tennessee Breakdown*, released in February 2020. Cover photo by Alan Messer. Art design by John Fabke.



This year's Spring Fed intern from the MTSU School of Music was Sawyer Vals, who did an outstanding job with a wide variety of business and marketing tasks. Sawyer prepared and produced two reissue projects from the Davis Unlimited subsidiary of Spring Fed Records: *Flattops and Fiddles* and a J.T. Perkins double album reissue (the latter to be released this fall).



Spring Fed Records intern Sawyer Vals and one of two Davis Unlimited reissues he prepared this year.

Also new this year was *I'm Not Gone Yet*, an album by 95-year-old traditional country singer Roy Harper accompanied by Dobro slide guitarist Johnny Bellar. A native of Manchester, Tennessee, Harper is a former railroad man who has been playing, singing, and recording professionally since the 1940s, a rare, living window to the world of early country music. His repertoire is wide ranging and versatile, but he specializes in railroad songs and "blue yodels" in the style of the great Jimmie Rodgers. Harper has performed at the Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife and was the 2003 recipient of Tennessee's Folklife Heritage Award.



*I'm Not Gone Yet*, a 2020 release by Tennessee Folklife Heritage Award winner Roy Harper, who made his first recording in Nashville in 1947.

The tracks on *I'm Not Gone Yet* were recorded by Todd Eberhardt several years ago but had never been released. John Fabke remixed the tracks and oversaw the release, with art design and layout by Mary Alice Bernal.

Mr. Harper also made a generous donation of manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, and other vestiges of his long career to the CPM archive this year.



## Exhibits

CPM Graduate Assistants Allison Centobene and Tiffany Minton each created a fascinating new exhibit for the reading room this year. Allison's "Classical Crossover: Where Popular and Classical Music Intersect" explored some of the grey areas and cross influences between classical and popular music, inviting viewers to question existing notion about these categories and the sometimes artificial boundaries between them.

Tiffany's exhibit "Eldorado Club: The Chitlin' Circuit and Post-WW II Rhythm and Blues in Middle Tennessee" offered a glimpse of Black popular music in the region through primary documents, with special attention to the legendary Murfreesboro club where Jimi Hendrix once performed.



Special CPM guest Raymond Summerour stands alongside the Eldorado Club exhibit created by Graduate Assistant Tiffany Minton. Summerour played saxophone in The Dukes, the Eldorado Club's house band that once had a young Jimi Hendrix sit in with them. Minton also created a Spotify playlist to accompany the physical exhibit (to access [click here](#)).



Allison Centobene's "Classical Crossovers Exhibit" in the CPM reading room.



## Research Guides

CPM Graduate Assistant Tiffany Minton, pursuing her MA in Public History at MTSU, created two wonderful new research guides using CPM resources: *Women in Electronic Music* and *Special Topics in LGBTQIA+ Popular Music Culture*. Both guides offer background and context on the research areas along with detailed and extensive information about finding and using primary and secondary research sources. These and other research guides are available via the CPM website at

<https://mtsu.edu/popmusic/researchguides.php>

learn about the exciting work that goes on here. A few noted visitors this year were Nancy Jones (widow of country legend George Jones), Steve Popovich, Jr. (of Cleveland International Records), Dr. Marquita Reed (Curator of the National Museum of African American Music), Stephen and Jana Mouglin (owners of Dark Shadow Recording Studios), Ginger Boatwright (pioneering bluegrass artist and songwriter), members of this year's class of Leadership Middle Tennessee, and veteran songwriters from Operation Song



Above: Nancy Jones, wife of the late country music star George Jones, meeting with MTSU songwriting students in the CPM reading room. Below: MTSU student veterans work with Hall of Fame songwriters during Operation Song.



**center** for  
popular music

**Special Topics in LGBTQIA+ Popular Music Culture**

Materials related to "Special Topics in LGBTQIA+ Popular Music Culture" in the collections of the Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University

Compiled by: Tiffany Minton, Dec. 2019

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**What does LGBTQIA+ mean?**

LGBTQIA+ is an acronym that stands for "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Transsexual, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual and more (+)". The term is meant to represent various sexualities and gender identities that have been historically marginalized either by ignorance, segregation or extermination. It is also meant to respectfully emphasize the diverse human expressions of gender and sexual identities. The acronym has gone through different iterations over the years. Variants include: LGBT, GLBT, LGBTQ, LGBTI, LGBTIQ, LGBT+ and perhaps even more. Public discourse around the term continues to evolve as people's ideologies expand, contract and engage with forms of critical analysis, solidarity and inclusion. Like the community itself, the term remains fluid.

**Why does LGBTQIA+ research matter?**

By examining the stories of marginalized people and groups, opportunities emerge to consider whose histories are told or untold, why those experiences were voiced or silenced, and how these inclusions or absences effect society and our understanding of

Screenshot from the *LGBTQIA+ Popular Music Culture* research guide created by CPM Graduate Assistant Tiffany Minton.



## Visitors

Many distinguished guests visited the Center for Popular Music this year to tour the facilities, engage with staff and students, and



## CPM Staff News

The Center for Popular Music conducted two nationwide searches this year for full-time staff, and were delighted to bring such talented and dynamic professionals onto the team. Stephanie Bandel moved from Assistant Librarian to the Librarian position, and Ashley Armstrong was hired as our new Assistant Librarian.

### *CPM Staff Listing, 2019–2020*

Gregory Reish, Director

Rachel Morris, Archivist

Stephanie Bandel, Librarian

Olivia Beaudry, Assistant Archivist

Ashley Armstrong, Assistant Librarian

Martin Fisher, Manager of Recorded Sound Collections

Yvonne Elliott, Executive Aide

John Fabke, Manager of Spring Fed Records

Allison Centobene, Graduate Assistant

Tiffany Minton, Graduate Assistant

Sawyer Vals, Spring Fed Records Intern

### *Gregory Reish*



- Member, College of Media and Entertainment Dean Search Committee
- Developed and taught two new courses for MTSU School of Music:

- Mexican and Tejano Music, and The History of Bluegrass
- Video Interview for MTSU *Out of the Blue*
- Attended AmericanaFest Conference, Nashville, TN
- PhD Dissertation Committee Member for Eric Hogue (Economics) and Hunter Moore (Public History)
- Panelist for “Streaming and the Bluegrass Industry,” International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Conference, Raleigh, NC
- Organizer and Moderator of “Archiving Bluegrass” Panel, IBMA Conference, Raleigh, NC
- Nominated for IBMA Writer of the Year Award
- “‘Find Your Thing’: John Hartford’s Fiddle Compositions, Newgrass, and Acoustic Americana,” presentation at 2019 Bluegrass Symposium
- Guest speaker and performer in MTSU classes taught by Kathryn Fenton and Angela Tipps
- Guest speaker in Boston University online class taught by Paul Wells and Sally Sommers Smith
- Weeklong residency as guest lecturer and performer at University of Veracruz, Xalapa, Mexico (March 2020); offered four guest lectures, one masterclass, and one campus performance
- Old-Time and bluegrass concert at Tierra Luna, Xalapa, Mexico (March 2020); performed with local group Los Gansos de la Pradera





- Old-Time concert in Parque Juarez, Xalapa, Mexico; event sponsored by the Xalapa municipal government
- Instructor, performer, and historical lecturer, Eighth of January Old-Time Music Weekend, Fiddle and Pick (Pegram, TN)
- Member, College of Media and Entertainment Scholars Week Committee
- Faculty Recital, MTSU School of Music (February 2020)
- Interview with students in Mike Osborne’s broadcast journalism class
- Field research and guest performer, Candelaria Festival, Tlacotalpan, Mexico (February 2020)
- “*Son Jarocho* in Tlacotalpan: Sustaining a Global Music in Its Ancestral Home,” paper accepted for 2020 Society for American Music Conference (postponed because of COVID-19)
- International Country Music Conference, Co-Chair
- “Preserving the Marvin Hedrick Tapes,” presentation at Symposium on Sound Archives, Shanghai Conservatory of Music (November 2019)
- Concert and Discussion of the music of Bob Dylan, Shanghai Modern Art Museum (November 2019)
- Guest lecture on string band music of the U.S. South, Wuhan Conservatory of Music (November 2019)
- Solo recital, Wuhan Conservatory of Music (November 2019)

- Consultant for Wuhan Conservatory of Music Audio Preservation Center and Music Library

### *Rachel Morris*



- Member of Society of American Archivists (SAA); Section Memberships: Accessibility and Disability; Acquisitions and Appraisal; Archival Educators; Archives Management; Audio and Moving Image; Collection Management; Description; Education Committee; Independent Archivists; Lone Arrangers; Manuscript Repositories; Preservation; Reference, Access, and Outreach; SAA Leader List; Women Archivists
- Society of American Archivists Conference, Austin, TX (July–August, 2019)
- SAA Annual Membership Business Meeting
- Archives Managers Unconference – Pre-conference education workshop
- Chair of the SAA Committee on Education
- Liaison for development of the “Appraisal for Arrangement and Description” SAA continuing education course





- Liaison for the ongoing development of the “Rights and Confidentiality” SAA continuing education course
- Liaison for the ongoing development of the “Grant Proposal Writing” SAA continuing education course
- Member of Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA)
- Granted ACA recertification for 2020–2025
- Member of Society of Tennessee Archivists (STA)
- “The Journey to Authentic Leadership” (online webinar), MTSU Jones College of Business

- Presentation (conference canceled due to COVID-19)
- Attended the Association of College and Research Libraries virtual conference
- American Sign Language Courses 1&2
- RFS Walker Library Review Committee
- MTSU Holocaust Studies Committee

### *Olivia Beaudry*



### *Stephanie Bandel*



- “The impact of COVID-19: A discussion with Dr. Jason Martin, Interim Dean of James E. Walker Library Middle Tennessee State University” *Tennessee Libraries* Vol. 70, #2, 2020 ([click here](#))
- Review of *Religion of Fear: The True Story of the Church of God of the Union Assembly*. *Tennessee Libraries*, Vol. 69, #3, 2019 ([click here](#))
- “Building an Engaged Community through Library Programming.” Presentation accepted for Tennessee Libraries Annual Conference,

- Attended Society of American Archivists Conference, Austin, TX (July 2019)
- Group facilitator for Society of American Archivist Committee on Education Unconference and SAA publicity liaison for the event
- Attended AmericanaFest Music Festival and Conference, Nashville, TN (September 2019)
- Selected to present at International Country Music Conference, Belmont University, Nashville, TN, May 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19)
- Webmaster for International Country Music Conference
- Member of Belmont Country Music Book of the Year Award selection committee, 2020
- Member of Society of American Archivists





- Society of American Archivists Section Member in: Lone Arrangers, Recorded Sound, Reference, Access, and Outreach, Research Libraries, Students and New Archives Professionals
- Board member of Inter-Museum Council of Nashville
- Member of Academy of Certified Archivists

### *Ashley Armstrong*



- Member of Association of College and Research Libraries
- Webinars, Professional Training, and Continuing Education online courses (totaling 79 hours): Connexion Client Training; Cultivating Safe Libraries; Moving Beyond a Culture of Conformity; Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Trauma-Informed Pedagogy; Privacy, Confidentiality & Intellectual Freedom; Library of Congress Classification; Developing Policies in Support of Ethical Practice; How Faculty and Admin Can Come Together During Emergency; Music Cataloging Basics; RDA for Music Scores; Libraries & the COVID-19 Crisis; Fixing Higher Ed's Inequities in a Time of Crisis; RDA for Music: Popular Music, Jazz; Supporting Contingent Faculty During Outbreak;

Inclusive Teaching in the Online Classroom; Library of Congress Subject Headings; Assistive Technology & Distance Learning; Cataloging Music Audiovisual Using RDA; Intro to LC Faceted Vocabularies for Music; Online Reference & the Open Web; Accessible Remote Education During COVID-19; Intro to LC Music Medium of Performance & Genre; Bridge the Digital Divide for Patrons with Disabilities; Accessibility in Online/Remote Course; From Emergency Remote Teaching to Effective Distance Education; How to Assist Patrons with Disabilities Effectively; Refresh Reference Interview Skills; Customer Service Master Class; Readers' Advisory Meets Collection Development; Cataloging Non-English Materials; Special Collections Cataloging: Manuscripts; All About Web Archiving; A Field Guide to Digital Preservation; Why (Not) Digitize; Wayfinding for Digital Preservation

### *Martin Fisher*



- Invited speaker at conference on audio preservation, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Shanghai, China





- Cylinder recording demonstrations at Hatch Show Print, Blackbird Recording Academy, Country Music Hall of Fame Steam Festival, Northfield Elementary School (Murfreesboro, TN), Audio Engineering Society chapter meeting (MTSU), Breakin' Up Winter, Cedars Of Lebanon State Park (Lebanon, TN), MTSU classes
- Video recording and documentation for Spring Fed recording sessions, CPM guest presentations, CPM brown bag events, Su Yang and Jim Lauderdale events, Tennessee Folklore Society Conference (Byrdstown, TN), Churchill Society of Tennessee Banquet
- Association for Recorded Sound Collections conference (online)
- Tennessee Folklore Society
- Served on the CPM Librarian Search Committee (July 2019)
- Herald for Commencements – Summer 2019, Fall 2019
- Attended CME Dean's Search Open Forums and Presentations (Sept 2019)
- Participated in the MTSU Battle of the Branches Blood Drive for the American Red Cross
- Participated in *Read the U.S. Constitution Aloud* for Constitution Week
- Records Retention Update/Training
- HR Training – Banner 9 Navigation, Banner 9 Budget, Web Time Entry (WTE), Leave Reporting and regular Payroll Forms Processing
- Participated in MTSU Hike for Hope, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Attended Operation Song's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Songs and Stripes" showcase event
- Participated in the MTSU Employee Charitable Giving Campaign (Fall 2019)
- Attended Compliance and Ethics in Blue Lecture Series: Non-Student Receivables & Tax Compliance
- Participated in MTSU Wear Red Day for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign
- Participated in Collegiate Day of Prayer with MTSU Opens Arms Faculty and Staff Fellowship
- Attended Spring Fed Records "Tennessee Breakdown" CD Release Show
- Alzheimer's Association Volunteer, Rutherford County Walk to End Alzheimer's Committee Member

### **Yvonne Elliott**



- Association of Secretaries and Clerical Employees (ASCE) Member, Scholarship and Fundraising Committees Member
- Notary Public for the State of Tennessee (2017–2021)
- Mental Health First Aid Two-Year Certification from the National Council of Behavioral Health (June 2019–June 2021)



*John Fabke*



- Taught Noel Lorson's art class at the CPM, discussing design, artwork, and layout of recording releases
- Art design for Spring Fed releases, posters for Station Inn shows, Festival of Texas Fiddling, and other events
- Hand printed posters for local, regional and national events
- Performed with noteworthy bluegrass and old-time musicians in Nashville, including regular performances with Bluegrass Hall of Fame member Roland White
- Began collaboration with country music historian, Bill Malone, on a monograph history of the old-time music revival
- Submitted an application for a TN Governor's Arts Award for Tom Morgan





## Laurels 2019–20

“A special thanks...for hosting Club MARVEL this past Saturday. The students and teachers really enjoyed the program as well as the tour.” – Greg Lyles, Community Initiatives Coordinator, Murfreesboro City Schools

“Wow! You don’t know how happy I am right now!” / “My good friend says you’re the best and I totally agree. Thanks again” - Vicki Hardy, photographer

“Thanks as always for your support and for coordinating this. [We] realize this is what you do each day, but we’re no less appreciative of your assistance.” – Music journalist Steve Morley

“You have no idea how happy this has made my heart!!! Blessings.” - Roxanne Welch (family of songwriter Gene Welch)

“Thanks for all your help when we were pulling information from the collection. We couldn’t have done it without you.” - Madeleine Liseblad, PhD, Assistant Professor, MTSU

“Thank you for organizing my class visit to the Center for Popular Music this year! . . . Each day, my class and I were welcomed with warm smiles and greetings. The work that you do is important, and I appreciate your help with keeping students informed about the past.” - Tabitha Lowery, Dissertation Fellow and Lecturer at MTSU

“Wow! That was both so fast and so helpful!” - Thomas Grant Richardson, Folklorist

“Thanks for doing the scanning so fast... Excellent” - Anthony Lis, Professor, South Dakota State University

“Can’t say how much I appreciate this [help in locating items]!” - Ryan Dooley, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

“These are very helpful! Thank you! Hopefully I’ll be able to actually visit the CPM at some point in the future. In isolated solidarity” - Phoebe Hughes, PhD candidate, Ohio State University

“These are well received, and look great. Thank you SO MUCH for your help with this!” Neil Egan, Chronicle Books

“WOW! Thank you so much for your prompt response...And thank you for making this astounding collection so readily available to the public.” – Ingrid Madelayne, Researcher





## Publications Using CPM Resources (selected list)

### Documentaries and Films

- *Country Music*, documentary miniseries by Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, September 2019
- *Once Were Brothers: Robbie Robertson and the Band*, 2019
- *Li'l Liza Jane: A Movie About a Song*, in production
- *Garth Brooks: The Road I'm On*, an A&E mini-doc, December 2019
- *Biography: Kenny Rogers*, by Blackbird Presents on A&E, April 2020
- *Without Getting Killed or Caught*, documentary on Guy Clark, forthcoming 2020

### Books

- *Dolly Parton, Songteller: My Life in Lyrics* by Dolly Parton, with Robert K. Oermann, forthcoming in November 2020

### Lectures and Presentations

- "Breaking the *Billboard* Magazine Mold: The Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson and Julio Iglesias Super Specials," Madeleine Liseblad, Ph.D. and Dr. Gregory Pitts - the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference, March 2020
- "A Profile on Lee Zhito," Madeleine Liseblad, Ph.D. and Dr. Gregory Pitts, paper for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Southeast Colloquium, March 2020

### Educational Materials

- Tennessee Music Pathways (signs, posts, and location markers) - identifies, interprets, promotes, and preserves well-known and lesser-known music events, locations, and stories across the state of Tennessee.





## CPM Donors, 2019–2020

Albert Gore Research Center	Joseph E. Keene
Jeff Bagato	Dan Margolies
Donna Baker	Ronald W. McKee
Olivia Beaudry	Michael Mendelson
Jean Bills	Tiffany Minton
Tina Chevalier	Felicia Miyakawa
Dale and Lucinda Cockrell	Rachel Morris
Danny O. Crew	Ken Parr
Don Cusic	Greg Reish
Colin Escott	Tennessee Performing Arts Center
John Fabke	Travis Stimeling
Judy Flanigan	Daniel D. Teoli, Jr.
Florentine Films	Roland Untch
Stephen Griffin	John Vile
Roy Harper	Mavis Weinberger
John Hartford Office	Rodney T. Wright
Gordon Gene Jones	Youth Empowerment through Arts and Humanities, Inc. (YEAH!)
Nancy Jones	Jerry Zolten
Beverly Keel	

## Collections Statistics

	Total held 30-Jun-19	Added 2019–2020	Total held 1-Jul-20
<b>Books</b>	<b>24,511</b>		<b>24,594</b>
Reading room	13,268	53	13,321
Special collections	11,243	30	11,273
<b>Serial Titles</b>			
Current subscriptions	158	-1	<b>157</b>
Secondary & Special	1,663	0	<b>1,663</b>
General/Non-Current (i.e. disc)	632	4	<b>636</b>
<b>Sound Recordings</b>	<b>273,062</b>		<b>273,582</b>
78s	60,206	25	60,231
45s	60,163	247	60,410





33-1/3s	107,308	109	107,417
CDs	32,234	81	32,315
Audio tapes	13,151	4	13,155
<b>Videos</b>	2,073	29	<b>2,102</b>
<b>CD-ROMs</b>	7	0	<b>7</b>
<b>DVDs</b>	281	7	<b>288</b>
<b>Sheet music &amp; Broad­sides</b>			
Individual pieces	115,274	226	<b>115,500</b>
Volumes	272	0	<b>272</b>
<b>Manuscripts</b>			
Documents (linear feet)	545	7	<b>552</b>
Manuscript music volumes	206	1	<b>207</b>
Audio recordings	13,608	106	<b>13,714</b>
Video recordings	2,763	107	<b>2,870</b>
Films	87	0	<b>87</b>
<b>Performance documents</b>	3,749	14	<b>3,763</b>
<b>Trade catalog titles</b>	795	0	<b>795</b>
<b>Vertical files</b> (linear feet)	77	0	<b>77</b>
<b>Iconographic items</b>	24,702	9	<b>24,711</b>
<b>Microforms items</b>	2,869	0	<b>2,869</b>
<b>Artifacts</b>	255	21	<b>276</b>
<b>Digital Manuscript Files</b>	3,753	305	<b>4,058</b>
<b>Gifts (value in dollars)</b>	<b>\$3,816,468</b>	<b>\$89,193</b>	<b>\$3,905,661</b>





## Patronage 2019–2020

User Type	FY 2018–2019	FY 2019–2020
<b>In Person*</b>		
MTSU Students:	798	627
MTSU Faculty/Staff:	146	69
Non-MTSU:	329	213
CPM Programs & Events:	232	57
<i>Total On-Site:</i>	<i>1,505</i>	<i>966</i>

\*NB: The Center closed its reading room to visitors on March 18, 2020 in accordance with the university’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<b>Remote</b>		
Telephone	55	8
Internet	326	174
Letter	0	0
Reproduction Requests	92	215
<i>Total Remote:</i>	<i>473</i>	<i>397</i>
 <i>Total Patrons:</i>	 <i>1,978</i>	 <i>1,363</i>

### Patrons from 11 U.S. States Visited the Center in 2019–2020

Alabama	Indiana
Alaska	Michigan
California	New York
District of Columbia	Tennessee
Florida	Texas
Illinois	

### Patrons from 3 Foreign Countries Visited the Center in 2019–2020

Canada  
China  
Mexico





**Patrons from 34 MTSU Departments (Faculty/Staff/Students) visited the Center in 2019–2020**

Accounting	Management (College of Business)
Aerospace	Marketing
Albert Gore Research Center	Mathematics
Art and Design	Media Arts
Biology	Music
Center for Chinese Music and Culture	Office of University Provost
Criminal Justice Administration	Physics and Astronomy
Economics and Finance	Psychology
English	Public History
Forensic Science	Recording Industry Management
Global Studies & Human Geography	Social Work
Health and Human Performance	Sociology and Anthropology
History	Theatre & Dance
Human Sciences	University College
Information Systems and Analytics	University Studies
Journalism	WMOT Radio
Liberal Arts	World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

## Collections Usage

<b><u>Materials Used:</u></b>	<b><u>2018–2019</u></b>	<b><u>2019–2020</u></b>
Reading Room Books	443	587
Rare Books	40	46
Sound Recordings	180	145
Microforms	6	1
Serials	73	84
Bound Serials	242	60
Vertical Files	59	51
Sheet Music/Broadsides	59	167
Video Tapes/DVDs	8	6
Photographs	53	3
Performance Documents	4	273
Trade Catalogs	1	0
Manuscripts (boxes)	63	58
Databases	11	77
<b><u>Total Materials Used</u></b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>1,558</b>

NB: Numbers exclude online usage

NB: Access to materials restricted starting March 18, 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic





## Social Media

Instagram followers: 523  
Facebook followers: 1,989  
Twitter followers: 2,710  
Newsletter subscribers: 175  
YouTube channel subscribers: 67  
    Posted videos: 50  
    Views: 33,668

Participated in the Society of American Archivists'  
#AskAnArchivistDay and #ArchiveHashtagParty

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The Center for Popular Music closed its reading room to visitors and the staff began working from home in accordance with directives from the MTSU administration in mid-March 2020. The situation naturally affected the number of visitors and the amount of usage for the year. The closure also led to cancellation of several planned events (described in the Programming section above).

Working from home, staff devoted time to activities such as website revision, social media engagement, remote and virtual event planning, policy updating, audio digitization, grant project research, and professional development. With scholars all over the U.S. and the globe sheltering in place, there was an uptick in remote research requests and CPM staff did an outstanding job getting researchers the assistance and materials they needed.

Staff began to return to the CPM with Phase 1 of the university's reopening beginning in June 2020. By August 2020 most full-time staff will have returned to the office, and the CPM reading room has reopened to visitors on an appointment-only basis, with strict health procedures in place.





## The 2019–2020 Budget

	FY 2019–20 Budget		
	Matching	Appopr.	Total
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>			
Faculty	\$47,108	\$49,171	\$96,279
Other Professional	\$155,316	\$84,700	\$240,015
Clerical/ Supporting	\$18,230	\$15,568	\$33,798
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>\$220,653</b>	<b>\$149,439</b>	<b>\$370,093</b>
Fringe Benefits	\$64,219	\$48,274	\$112,493
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$284,873</b>	<b>\$197,713</b>	<b>\$482,586</b>
<b>Non-Personnel</b>			
Travel	\$11,196		\$11,196
Software			\$0
Books & Journals			\$0
Other Supplies	\$11,262		\$11,262
Equipment			\$0
Maintenance	\$4,180		\$4,180
Scholarships			\$0
Consultants			\$0
Renovation			\$0
<b>Professional &amp; Adm Services</b>	\$15,159		
<b>Due &amp; Subscriptions</b>	\$11,325		
<b>Shipping &amp; Postage</b>	\$599		
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$849		\$849
<b>Printing &amp; Duplication</b>	\$1,640		\$1,640
<b>Telecommunications</b>	\$2,366		\$2,366
<b>Advertising</b>	\$1,640		
<b>Software Maintenance</b>	\$7,564		
<b>Computers</b>	\$6,831		\$6,831
<b>Total Non-Personnel</b>	<b>\$74,611</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$38,324</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$359,484</b>	<b>\$197,713</b>	<b>\$520,910</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
New State Appropriation		\$212,000	\$212,000
Carryover State Appropriation			\$0
New Matching Funds	\$356,017		\$356,017
Carryover from Previous Matching Funds	\$294,910		\$294,910
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$650,927</b>	<b>\$212,000</b>	<b>\$862,927</b>





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