

# CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC

Annual Report 2016–2017



MTSU College of Media and Entertainment





**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.**

The Center for Popular Music was established in 1985 by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission as one of sixteen designated Centers of Excellence. Its mandate was to build a research archive of national prominence, and to develop programs to support and disseminate studies in American popular music. The vision was to create and maintain a world-class research center to serve Middle Tennessee State University, the local area, the state of Tennessee, and the larger research community. The CPM continues to thrive as one of the most important intellectual and cultural assets of the university, the region, and the nation.

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Fiscal year 2016–17 was another one of vibrant growth, dynamic change, and increased visibility for the Center for Popular Music. The format switch for WMOT has been a sea change for the College of Media and Entertainment and for MTSU as a whole, with the CPM as an essential part of that exciting transformation. The Center's collection has continued to grow, including this year's acquisition of the amazing John Hartford Collection. Center staff has strengthened with highly skilled and energetic individuals brought into key positions. A year-long grant-funded project was completed with its new website launched, and another project is now underway. Spring Fed Records has had a thrilling year of new releases, including one that broadens the label's geographic and cultural diversity, along with a sharp increase in the number of high-quality reissues. And of course, the CPM offered varied and stimulating public programming to serve the campus and regional communities.



## **Roots Radio WMOT**

After more than a year of preparation, on September 2, 2016 MTSU's 100,000-watt NPR station WMOT-FM changed its format from a broad mix of jazz, classical, and news/talk to one of contemporary Americana and American roots





music. Forged through a dynamic partnership with the production and promotional team from Music City Roots, Roots Radio WMOT has in its first year quickly emerged as the nation's flagship Americana station during a boom time for the genre itself.



Distinguished Americana artists join Dean Ken Paulson, WMOT Executive Director Val Hoepfner, CPM Director Greg Reish, and other members of the Roots Radio team during the WMOT launch event at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The Center for Popular Music, located in the same college and the same building as the WMOT studios, has played a vital role in this transformation. Director Greg Reish was part of the planning for this change from the beginning, and he continues to serve as a key advisor to WMOT's leadership. The Center's vast collection of sound recordings has helped to lay the foundation for WMOT's deep library of American roots music.

Dr. Reish has also developed a highly successful weekly show on the new WMOT. *Lost Sounds* showcases rare and unusual recordings from the CPM archive, contextualized and illuminated with historical expertise. Not bound by any particular genre, region, or time period, each week's show focuses on a particular theme, such as cowboy music, 1940s rhythm & blues, Middle Tennessee

fiddling, the music of Billie Holiday, and South Texas conjunto music. *Lost Sounds* can be heard on Sunday evenings and Saturday mornings, broadcasting throughout the region at 89.5 FM, on the free Roots Radio app, and on the web at [wmot.org](http://wmot.org).

Synergy also exists between WMOT and the Center for Popular Music in the many artists who have visited both while in the College of Media and Entertainment building. Distinguished guests on campus for CPM public programs—including legends such as Charlie McCoy, Tracy Nelson, and Kathy Mattea, along with up-and-coming Americana artists like The Americans—have had the opportunity to go live on WMOT for extended interviews and even live in-studio performance. Likewise, guests of WMOT—such as Grammy-nominated, IBMA mandolin player of the year Sierra Hull—have had the opportunity to explore the CPM archive.



Bluegrass and Americana phenom Sierra Hull appeared live in the WMOT studio before stopping by the CPM to check out the collection.



## Grant Projects

### *Marvin Hedrick Project*

During 2016-2017 the staff of the Center for Popular Music launched and completed a project funded by a generous grant from the Grammy Foundation to catalog and digitize the Marvin Hedrick Audio Collection. This cache of unique field recordings made in the 1950s and 60s documents some of the most important bluegrass performances in the genre's history, concentrating on the legendary years of the Brown County Jamboree in Bean Blossom, Indiana and the music of Jamboree owner Bill Monroe (the father of bluegrass). The result of this twelve-month effort is a dedicated and fully searchable website, with songs, musicians, and other vital information.

CPM staffer John Fabke did most of the historical research and cataloging, with oversight and website management by Lindsay Million and Rachel Morris. Martin Fisher preserved, repaired, and digitized the entire collection to archival standards in the CPM's audio lab. Complete information and sound samples are available on the project website:

<http://tinyurl.com/hedrickcollection>



L-R: Bill Monroe, Roger Smith, Birch Monroe, Jimmy Maynard. Brown County, IN, 1963. Photo by Jim Peva.

### *American Guitar Project*

In December 2016 the Center for Popular Music received a grant of \$5,000 from the Martin Guitar Company Foundation. With these funds the CPM has launched a project to digitize its extensive collection of copyright-free guitar materials, most from the 19th century. The resulting website will include photographs, sheet music, instructional materials, and more.



One of the many treasures from the CPM archive to be shared on its American Guitar website.



## Acquisitions

The CPM archive grew not only in size during 2016–2017, but in depth and richness as well. Here are some of the year’s acquisition highlights, featuring rare and valuable materials that will surely inspire important research and teaching.

### *The John Hartford Collections*

The year’s most exciting acquisitions were major donations made by the family of the late songwriter, performer, scholar, and newgrass pioneer John Hartford. A remarkable man of endless creativity and insatiable musical curiosity, Hartford (best known for writing the mega-hit, “Gentle on My Mind”) left behind staggering amounts of material from his creative life. The family has entrusted the Center for Popular Music to be the permanent stewards of large portions of this invaluable legacy.

Chief among the Hartford donations is his collection of 5,494 audio tapes. The vast majority of these are original and unique recordings of live performances, jam sessions with famous musicians, interviews, and what Hartford called “work tapes,” which he used as audio sketchbooks for his ideas. In later, separate donations, the Hartford family donated 485 video recordings and the 2,413 items in John Hartford’s personal record collection (including LPs, 45s, 78s, and CDs).

The Center for Popular Music also acquired the John Hartford digital collection, consisting of high-resolution scans from the 68 notebooks of notated music John left behind. The collection includes thousands of original fiddle tunes, songs, and other compositions written in Hartford’s stunning and elaborate calligraphy.



One of thousands of unique recordings in the John Hartford Audio Collection. This one captured John and Jamie Hartford in a backstage jam with legendary banjo player Earl Scruggs.

### *The Marty Stuart Collection*

This is a collection of 657 LPs, nine 45s, and three 78s acquired from legendary country musician, Grand Ole Opry member, and avid collector Marty Stuart. The collection consists chiefly of classic country and bluegrass recordings from the 1950s and 60s, several of which are signed by the artists.

### *The Radio Café Hour*

Nashville resident and CPM supporter Steven Gladstone donated 692 original digital audio tapes made in Branson, Missouri, of the Radio Café Hour, a daily live show that for many years offered interviews and live performances by some of popular music’s biggest stars. Gladstone co-produced the show in the 1990s.

### *Nick DiSebastian Transcriptions*

Acclaimed teacher and multi-instrumentalist Nick DiSebastian donated 253 original transcriptions of guitar and mandolin solos by musicians such as Tony Rice, David Grisman, Sarah Jarosz, Ricky Skaggs, and Django Reinhardt. These will be an invaluable resource for MTSU teaching and learning.



### *Leland Walker and Richard DeFore Transcription Discs*

Collector Richard DeFore, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, donated a remarkable collection of 1,968 radio transcription discs in March 2017. These large 16-inch discs, the original 33 1/3 rpm format, were in use by the radio industry from the 1930s to the early 1950s. Mr. DeFore collected them for decades, and several years ago also acquired those of his friend and fellow collector Leland Walker when the latter passed away. This enormous number of rare discs, especially in such good condition, is an amazing window into this segment of the music and entertainment industry.



Donor Richard DeFore bids farewell to his large collection of rare 16-inch radio transcription discs before their long journey from New Mexico to Tennessee.

### *The Stephen Davis Collection*

Noted collector, folklorist, and longtime CPM supporter Stephen Davis (who also founded Davis Unlimited Records, now part of the Spring Fed catalog) continued to enrich the Center's archive by donating a collection of 672 extremely rare record sleeves from the 1920s through the 1960s. Such materials are of great interest to researchers and students focusing on graphic

design, printing, and marketing in the history of the music industry.



Two rare 78 rpm record sleeves from the Stephen Davis Collection.

### *Waffle House Records*

Gary Lind donated a small but mouth-watering collection of twenty 45s on the Waffle Records label. These records of original songs such as "Waffle House Hashbrowns (I Love You)," "Grill Operator," and "Last Night I Saw Elvis at the Waffle House," were produced exclusively for jukebox use in Waffle House restaurants.



Waffle Records 45s donated by Gary Lind of Marietta, GA.





## CPM Donors 2016-2017

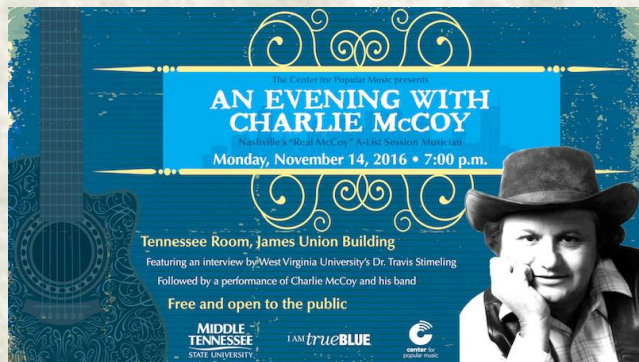
Mr. Grover Baker, Nolensville, TN  
Mr. Harold Baldwin, Murfreesboro, TN  
Ms. Olivia Beaudry, Murfreesboro, TN  
Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA  
Mr. Jonas Bernholm, Stockholm, Sweden  
Dr. Lee Bidgood, Johnson City, TN  
Mrs. Bonnie Black, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Robert G. Blosssey, Seattle, WA  
Mr. Doug Briney, Nashville, TN  
Sir Fred Cannon, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. William Chronister, Dallas, TX  
Mrs. Lucinda Cockrell, Lincoln, VT  
Mr. Rick Cottle, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Charlie Dahan, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Stephen Davis, Hideaway, TX  
Mr. Don Detwiler, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Nick DiSebastian, Clarkston, GA  
Mr. Blaine Dunlap, Sanger, TX  
Mrs. Maurine Evans, Pulaski, TN  
Mr. John Fabke, Nashville, TN  
Mr. Martin Fisher, Nashville, TN  
Mr. Steven G. Gladstone, Nashville, TN  
John Hartford Office, Nashville, TN  
Mr. Bill Hearn, Nashville, TN  
Mrs. Nancy Hill, Spring Hill, TN  
Mr. Paul Hirsch, Dunwoody, GA  
Mr. Gordon Gene Jones, New York, NY  
Mr. Curt Koehn, Chicago, IL  
Dr. Louis Kyriakoudes, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Gary Lind, Marietta, GA  
Mr. Jim Lutzweiler, Jamestown, NC

Ms. Rachel Marlin, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Jason Martin, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Sean McNally, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Tom Morgan, Dayton, TN  
Mr. Steve Morley, College Grove, TN  
Ms. Rachel Morris, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Ken Paulson, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. James Peva, Plainfield, IN  
Mrs. Cheryl Phillips, Maryville, TN  
Mr. Jay Pilzner, Nashville, TN  
Mr. Eben Powell, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mr. Justin Reed, Woodbury, TN  
Dr. Greg Reish, Murfreesboro, TN  
Rita Benton Music Library – University of Iowa,  
Iowa City, IA  
Mrs. Diane Runnells, Fairview, TN  
Mr. Sanford Shulman, Marietta, GA  
Ms. Tisha Simeral, Macon, GA  
Mrs. Theresa Mayor-Smith, Cadiz, KY  
Dr. Travis Stimeling, Morgantown, WV  
Mrs. Nancy Stubblefield, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mrs. Rosemary Wampler, Murfreesboro, TN  
Mrs. Shirley Marie Watts, Nashville, TN  
Ms. Elizabeth Weatherford, New York, NY  
Dr. Jim Williams, Fulton, MO  
Mr. Don Witherspoon, Murfreesboro, TN  
WMOT – Middle Tennessee Public Radio,  
MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN



## Programs and Events

The Center for Popular Music's vibrant and diverse programming calendar for 2016-2017 brought world-class performers, songwriters, scholars, and others to campus for memorable events.



### *Charlie McCoy*

One of the year's highlights was an illuminating program with legendary Nashville musician Charlie McCoy. Known primarily as a harmonica virtuoso, McCoy also plays guitar, bass, drums, trumpet, saxophone, tuba, piano, vibraphone, and just about any other instrument needed on stage or in the studio. His unparalleled career as a studio musician and leading recording artist has lasted more than fifty years and is still going strong.

A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, McCoy has played key roles in the recordings of Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Paul Simon, Anne Murray, George Jones, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Johnny Paycheck, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, and many other iconic figures. He has also released more than forty albums under his own name, and served for years as musical director of the *Hee Haw* television show.

Accompanied by country music historian Dr. Travis Stimeling, who recently co-wrote McCoy's memoir, Charlie made a live appearance on WMOT Roots Radio and spent time exploring the CPM archive before his evening program in MTSU's Tennessee Room. There he spoke about his life in music with Stimeling before a captivated audience, then returned to the stage with his band for a complete concert. What an amazing night!



Renowned Nashville musician Charlie McCoy with his band, delighting the audience gathered in MTSU's Tennessee Room on November 14, 2016.

### *Tracy Nelson*

In September 2016, in conjunction with MTSU's Constitution Day celebration, the CPM presented acclaimed blues and rock singer-songwriter Tracy Nelson. She is best remembered as the leader of Mother Earth, one of the prominent bands of the San Francisco music scene in the mid-late 1960s, and as composer of the hit, "Down So Low." Since moving to Nashville in the late 60s, Nelson has enjoyed a long and varied career in blues, rock, country, and other roots-based genres of Americana.



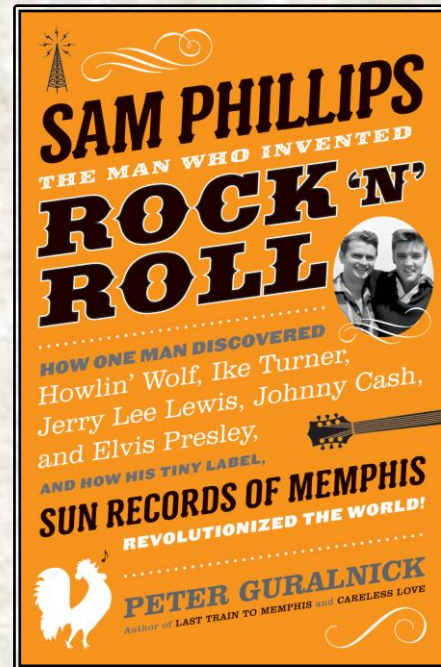
Tracy started her day at MTSU with a live appearance on WMOT Roots Radio before visiting the CPM archive. Her evening program was a public interview with Greg Reish, punctuated by live performances of some of her best-known songs.



Blues-rock-country legend Tracy Nelson signs copies of her famous albums pulled from the CPM archive. An outspoken advocate for social and environmental justice through her music, Ms. Nelson visited MTSU as part of the campus-wide Constitution Day celebration in September.

### *Peter Guralnick*

Music historian Peter Guralnick, author of award-winning books on Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, and others, visited MTSU in October 2016 to discuss his latest publication, *Sam Phillips: The Man Who Invented Rock 'n' Roll*. Guralnick's visit drew an audience of well over 100 students, faculty, staff, and local community members eager to hear insight and stories from one of popular music's most celebrated biographers.



Renowned music biographer Peter Guralnick's latest book, a revealing portrait of Sun Records' Sam Phillips.



Guralnick in conversation with CPM Director Greg Reish before a large audience in MTSU's McWherter Learning Resource Center.



### *InDigital: Music from Latin America*

In March 2017 the Center for Popular Music co-sponsored a conference at Vanderbilt University, organized in part by MTSU Anthropology professor Dr. Richard Pace.



Indigenous fusion group Balam Ajpu from Guatemala performs in the Media and Entertainment atrium, just outside the CPM entrance.

The week's events brought several special visitors to campus, and the CPM organized a performance in the Bragg Media and Entertainment Building atrium. Students, faculty, and staff had a rare chance to see and hear Chilean hip-hop artist Jaas Newen, Guatemalan fusion group Balam Ajpu, and Brazilian Kayopó singer-songwriter Pykatire. After their midday performance, Pykatire and several of his companions, including the Kayopó chief, had the opportunity to make cylinder recordings with the CPM's Martin Fisher.



Members of the Brazilian Kayopó tribe make a cylinder recording of their traditional chanting in the CPM.

### *Jonatha Brooke*

Singer-songwriter Jonatha Brooke, whose work has been featured in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and many other settings, was brought to campus by the MTSU Recording Industry Department with the support of the Center for Popular Music.



Jonatha Brooke performing one of her many acclaimed songs.



### *The Americans*

California-based band The Americans visited MTSU's campus during Nashville's annual AmericanaFest in September. The Americans were featured performers in the recent PBS documentary *American Epic*, co-produced by Jack White, T-Bone Burnett, and Robert Redford. Courtesy of the Center for Popular Music, band members toured the archive, made an appearance on WMOT, waxed a cylinder recording (joined by Recording Industry student and old-time fiddler, Austin Derryberry), and presented an educational program on roots music recordings of the 1920s to a History of the Recording Industry class.



Roots-rock band The Americans demonstrates some of their inspirations from 1920s folk and blues recordings.

### *Sarah Provost*

Dr. Sarah Provost of the University of North Florida delivered a lecture on "Teen Pan Alley: Youth Culture and Brill Building Pop," jointly presented by the Center for Popular Music and the MTSU School of Music.

### *Shelly Peiken*

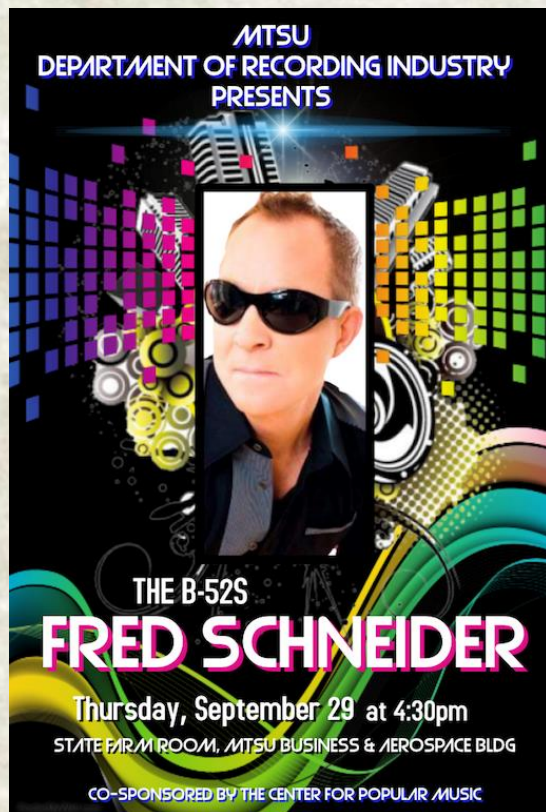
Number 1 hit songwriter Shelly Peiken came to the CPM reading room to talk about her career, her creative work, and her book, *Confessions of a Serial Songwriter*, for students in the Commercial Songwriting program. The event was co-organized by the Center for Popular Music and Professor Odie Blackmon of the MTSU Recording Industry Department.





### *Fred Schneider*

The Center for Popular Music joined the Recording Industry Department to welcome Fred Schneider, frontman of the pioneering new wave band The B-52s. In a conversation moderated by Nashville music journalist Dave Paulson, Schneider delighted and amused the audience with tales of the band's formation, creative process, and enormous influence on popular music and culture.



### *Ken Perlman and Bobby Taylor*

Two of the finest and most respected musicians specializing in the traditions of Appalachian old-time music, Ken Perlman and Bobby Taylor shared music, stories, and wisdom from their lifelong immersion in folk music. Perlman also discussed and played selections from his new book about the fiddling traditions of Canada's Prince Edward Island. The book is the first publication in the new music series from the University of Tennessee Press, named in honor of the late Dr. Charles Wolfe, an MTSU faculty member for thirty years. This event was part of MTSU's Scholars Week.



Appalachian folk music masters Bobby Taylor (fiddle) and Ken Perlman (banjo).

### *Kathy Mattea*

Country superstar Kathy Mattea visited MTSU with the help and support of the Center for Popular Music. After stopping by WMOT to talk about her latest projects on-air with host Whit Hubner, Kathy spent time with students in Dr. Kris McCusker's American Music class.



## Researchers, Camps, Visiting Groups

In 2016–2017 the CPM welcomed a variety of visiting researchers, musicians, camps, and other groups for tours, demonstrations, and programs of various kinds. Researchers came from as far away as Japan and Australia to spend extended time with the CPM's rare materials, while others came chiefly to benefit from the world-class expertise of CPM staff members. A few of the groups that came this year were the Southern Girls Rock Camp, the Stamps-Baxter School of Music, Innovation J-Camp, and the Blackbird Academy Professional School of Audio.



Hit songwriter and Operation Song founder Bob Regan welcomes veterans.

## *Brown Bag Series*

This year the CPM launched its monthly Brown Bag luncheon series, a regular forum for members of the MTSU community who are engaged in popular music studies to get together and share their work. Brown bag events during 2016–2017 featured faculty from the Recording Industry Department, the School of Music, the History Department, and a visiting Fulbright scholar from Japan.



## *Operation Song*

One particularly special group of visitors to the CPM were the U.S. military veterans who came in November as part of Operation Song. Organized by the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in cooperation with the MTSU Commercial Songwriting program and the MTSU Veterans Center, Operation Song pairs military veterans with professional Nashville songwriters in a mentoring program designed to help veterans cope with various challenges through musical creativity. The CPM was proud to offer host space for some of the day's events, and even put together a special exhibit of military-related materials from the archive.



Dr. Mike Alleyne of the MTSU Recording Industry Department presents parts of his forthcoming book on Jimi Hendrix during a CPM brown bag event.



## Exhibits

- “Unapologetic Loyalty: Fan Culture in Popular Music,” curated by Rachel Morris
- “Original Broadway Shows,” curated by Emily Boersma
- “Food, Glorious Food,” curated by Rachel Morris
- “Operation Song,” curated by Olivia Beaudry
- “Remembrance and Rebirth: The Music of Reconstruction,” curated by Rachel Morris. CPM exhibit at Stones River National Battlefield.
- “Decoration Day: Cover Them Over with Beautiful Flowers,” curated by Olivia Beaudry. CPM exhibit at Stones River National Battlefield.
- “Home Grown to Nationally Known: The Artistic Legacies of Murfreesboro,” curated by graduate assistants from MTSU’s Center for Historic Preservation using CPM and other materials.



Operation Song exhibit, honoring U.S. military veterans.

## CPM Newsletter

Under the creative eye of Assistant Archivist Olivia Beaudry, the CPM’s monthly electronic newsletter keeps donors, supporters, researchers, and other friends of the Center for Popular Music informed about recent activities and upcoming events. To sign up, click on this link:  
[CPM Newsletter Signup](#)



## Class Instruction

The CPM staff maintains its devotion to MTSU class instruction, offering tours, demonstrations, and research guidance tailored to individual faculty members’ needs. Led by CPM Librarian Lindsay Million, instruction was offered to a wide array of MTSU departments and colleges.



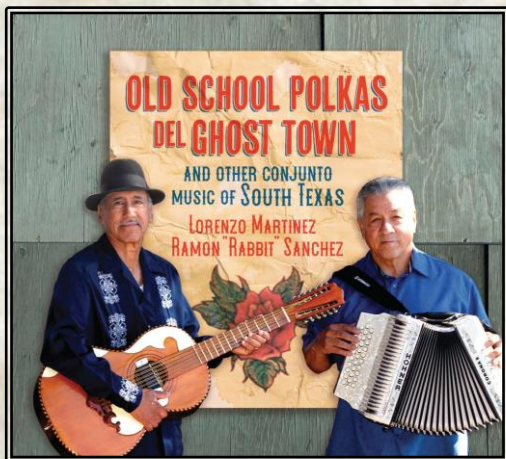
Librarian Lindsay Million introduces MTSU History students to the riches of the CPM archive.



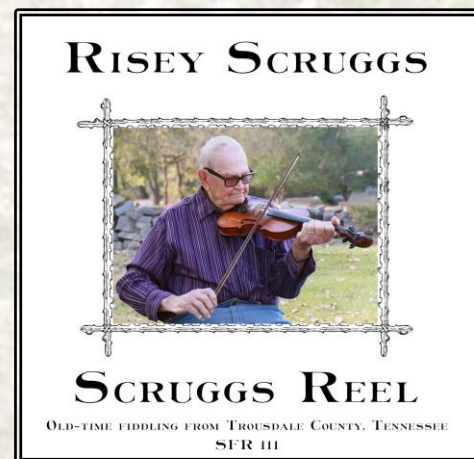
## SPRING FED Records

[springfedrecords.com](http://springfedrecords.com)

Spring Fed Records had a robust year of intriguing new releases and reissues. *Old School Polkas del Ghost Town*, released in February 2017, represents a number of important firsts for the label. It is Spring Fed's first foray into Latino music, specifically the Tejano dance style known as *conjunto*. San Antonio master musicians Lorenzo Martinez (accordion) and Ramon "Rabbit" Sanchez (bajo sexto) are among the most accomplished and celebrated members of this genre's older generation. *Ghost Town* is also the label's first release of music from Texas, still traditional music of the South, but broadening Spring Fed's geographical scope. Finally, this is the label's first brand new recording, a combination of studio recordings made in San Antonio specifically for the album and live tracks recorded during a March 2015 concert on the MTSU campus. This release has proudly been submitted for 2018 Grammy consideration.



Spring Fed Records Manager John Fabke and Director Greg Reish traveled to San Antonio for two very special album release shows featuring Lorenzo and Rabbit. On February 22 they performed for a standing-room-only crowd at Texas Folklife in Austin, and the following night they played for the hometown crowd at San Antonio's Alamo Music. The second event was co-sponsored by the Conjunto Heritage Taller, where Lorenzo and others teach local youth about the conjunto tradition.



Spring Fed's other brand new release in February 2017 is giving a very special Middle Tennessee musician his long overdue recognition. *Scruggs Reel* showcases the fiddling of 95-year-old fiddler Risey Scruggs, a contest and dance fiddler from Trousdale County, Tennessee. One of five musical brothers (and the last one living), Risey passed up an offer to become a regular musician on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry in 1950, choosing to stay at home with his family. Although he dominated the local fiddle contests with his virtuosic style for decades, this is his first album.

In March 2017 Spring Fed co-hosted an album release party, doubling as Risey's 95th birthday party, in Gallatin, Tennessee. Friends, family members, local musicians, and others gathered to play, sing, dance, and honor this local icon of

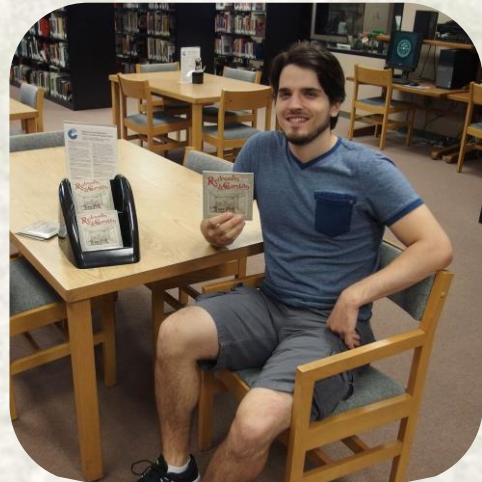


Tennessee folk music. The mayor of Trousdale County even came to honor Risey and present him with a special recognition.

In the wake of the album release, Spring Fed staff helped to arrange Risey's long-delayed debut on the Grand Ole Opry. On June 24, 2017 Risey Scruggs performed his original composition, "Scruggs Reel," with the Mike Snider String Band, earning a standing ovation!

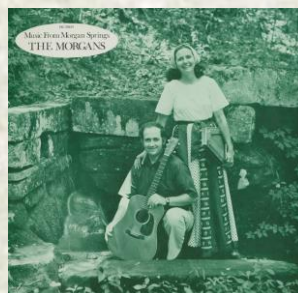
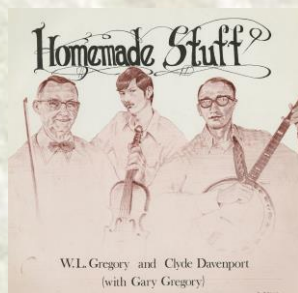


Fiddler Risey Scruggs, who turned down an opportunity to play regularly on the Grand Ole Opry in the 1950s, makes his Opry debut at age 95 alongside opry member Mike Snider.



Spring Fed Records intern Jack Lorens, a senior in the MTSU School of Music's Music Industry program, holds a copy of the reissue he produced.

During 2016–2017 Spring Fed Records continued to reissue titles from its back catalog that had gone out of print—some of them with newly discovered bonus material from the CPM archive. These reissues include albums by Sam and Kirk McGee, The England Brothers, W.L. Gregory and Clyde Davenport, Frazier Moss, The Morgans, and The North Fork Rounders. This last release was prepared and produced by MTSU undergraduate Jack Lorens, who spent the spring semester as a Spring Fed intern from the Music Industry program.



Pictured are several of this year's CD reissues from the Spring Fed and Davis Unlimited back catalog, remastered and with previously unreleased bonus material from the archive. The *Railroadin' & Gamblin'* reissue was entirely student produced.



## CPM Staff

This year the CPM continued to strengthen its world-class staff with two new full-time hires. Olivia Beaudry, a graduate of MTSU's Public History program who had worked as a CPM graduate assistant and as a full-time CPM library assistant, moved into a newly formed position as Assistant Archivist. She is responsible for a wide range of archival and library duties, and manages the Center's social media accounts and monthly newsletter. In May 2017 the Center welcomed Stephanie Bandel-Koroll as its new Library Assistant and front-desk staffer. Stephanie comes to MTSU with experience in public libraries and archives, and brings a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to her job. Congratulations to both Olivia and Stephanie on their new positions!

## *Staff Listing, 2016-2017*

Gregory Reish, Director  
Rachel Morris, Archivist/Coordinator  
Martin Fisher, Manager of Recorded Sound Collections  
Lindsay Million, Librarian  
Olivia Beaudry, Assistant Archivist  
Stephanie Bandel-Koroll, Library Assistant  
Yvonne Elliott, Executive Aide  
John Fabke, Manager of Spring Fed Records  
Emily Boersma, Graduate Assistant  
Leah Valley, Graduate Assistant  
Katie Rainge-Briggs, Graduate Assistant  
Jack Lorens, Spring Fed Records Intern



### CPM Staff

Back row (L-R): Fabke, Fisher  
Middle row (L-R): Elliott, Bandel-Koroll,  
Front row (L-R): Million, Beaudry, Reish, Morris



L-R: CPM graduate assistants Leah Valley, Emily Boersma, and Katie Rainge-Briggs hard at work in the archives.

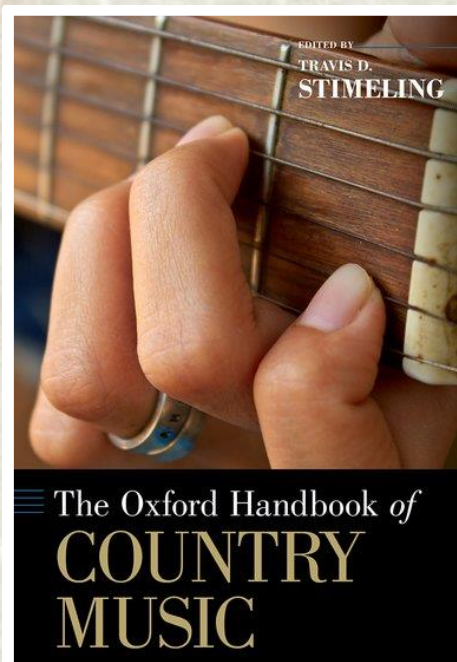


## Staff Activities

CPM staff members remained vitally active in their respective fields during 2016–2017, enhancing their professional training, publishing and presenting their research, participating in panels, performing, and sharing their knowledge and expertise at other institutions and in the community.

### *Gregory Reish*

- Published chapter, “On the Notion of ‘Old-Time’ in Country Music” in *The Oxford Handbook of Country Music*. Edited by CPM friend Travis Stimeling of West Virginia University, this landmark book includes research conducted in the Center for Popular Music by numerous authors. MTSU is better represented among the contributors than any other institution, with chapters by Reish, Kris McCusker (MTSU History), and Stephen Shearon (MTSU School of Music).



- Performer on *Music City Roots* with Matt Brown, Franklin, TN, July 2016
- Guest host of *Music City Roots*, Franklin, TN, May 2017
- “Preserving the Music of Ed Haley,” presentation at Society for American Music conference, Montreal, QC, March 2017
- “Preserving the Music of Ed Haley,” joint presentation with Martin Fisher, Association for Recorded Sound Collections conference, San Antonio, TX, May 2017
- Guest residency with presentations and performances at Arkansas State University, October 2016
- Host and moderator for session with Country Music Hall of Fame member Bill Anderson, Southern Festival of Books, Nashville, TN, October 2016
- Featured guest on *Roots Now* with Barry Mazor, Acme Radio, Nashville, TN, November 2016
- Performer in *Freedom Sings!* shows at Nashville’s famed Bluebird Café and at Folk Alliance International in Kansas City, MO
- “Country Music Songwriting,” panel organizer and moderator, International Country Music Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2017
- “Reish Sings Dylan,” solo recital in Hinton Hall, MTSU School of Music, Murfreesboro, TN, April 2017
- Presenter, South Arts program, Nashville, TN, May 2017
- Field research in Veracruz, Mexico, on the regional *son jarocho* tradition, February 2017



- Guest lecture on “String Band Music of the Southern U.S.” at the University of Veracruz School of Music, Xalapa, Veracruz, February 2017
- “The N.R.A. Blues: Country Music and the New Deal,” chapter in *The Honky-Tonk on the Left: Progressive Politics in Country Music* (forthcoming from the University of Massachusetts Press)
- Co-editor of *Tyranny, Resistance, and Music* (forthcoming from Lexington Books)
- “Music and the American Flag,” chapter in *An Encyclopedia of the Stars and Stripes* (forthcoming from ABC-CLIO)
- Member: Tom T. Hall Speaker Series committee, WMOT advisory committee, CPM Assistant Archivist search committee (chair), CPM Library Assistant search committee (chair), MTSU Public History graduate admissions committee, Walker Library Digital Partners
- Member, National Museum of African American Music Community Advisory Council
- Professional Memberships: Society for American Music, International Association for the Study of Popular Music, American Musicological Society, Society for Ethnomusicology, International Bluegrass Music Association, Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America, Association for Recorded Sound Collections, Americana Music Association
- Member, Society for American Music’s 2018 conference program committee
- Admitted to MTSU Graduate faculty status
- Outside reviewer for articles and book submissions (various)



*Son jarocho* musicians accompany fandango dancers during the Candelaria festival in Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, Mexico. Documented by CPM Director Greg Reish.

### *Rachel Morris*

- Panelist, “Remain in Light: Archival Practice for Popular Music Collections,” Society of American Archivists conference, Atlanta, GA, August 2016
- “Center for Popular Music Receives \$19K Grammy Grant to Digitize Newly Acquired Bluegrass Collection,” *Recorded Sound*, Summer 2016 (Society of American Archivists recorded sound newsletter)
- “An Evening with Charlie McCoy,” *Performance!*, Winter 2017 (Society of American Archivists performing arts newsletter)
- “Entertainment, Old School Style: Cylinder Recordings at the Center for Popular Music,” Winter 2017 (Society of American Archivists performing arts newsletter)
- Participant, “Advocacy Café,” Society of American Archivists five-part webinar



artists perform in hundreds of campus performances, clinics, and concerts each year. When requested, these tapes are digitized on-demand for in-house viewing by patrons. This collection of almost 4000 VHS tapes includes real gems, such as commencement speeches by David Bowie, Annie Lennox, Sting, and other honorary degree recipients, clinics led by working musicians at the top of their field like Dave Liebman and Gunther Schuller, and concerts by Berklee student and faculty ensembles.

**Entertainment, Old School Style:  
Cylinder Recordings at the Center for  
Popular Music**

The Center for Popular Music (CPM), located on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University, is known for its large collecting scope of American vernacular music. A research center dedicated to the full study of

popular music (all time periods, all genres, and all media formats), the CPM collects, preserves, and makes accessible over one million items, including sheet music, rare books, song broadsides, published books and periodicals, trade magazines, unique manuscript collections, photographs, and sound recordings in all formats.

Included in those sound recording collections are Edison-style cylinders. The CPM's Curator of Recorded Media Collections, Martin Fisher, does new cylinder recordings with some of today's most prominent local and national music stars. Using his favorite Edison Triumph Model-B cylinder machine (circa 1906) and blank cylinders purchased from England, Fisher captures the essence of today's music in a way that propels fascination and reverence in all performers who then gain a better appreciation of the mechanisms used in cylinder recordings. For more information on this, visit our social media pages!



This page:  
Martin Fisher  
records Dr. Mei  
Han, Director of  
the Center for  
Chinese Music and  
Culture, performing  
three traditional  
zheng pieces

Opposite page:  
Charlie McCoy  
shows off his extraordinary  
harmonica skills at  
The Center for  
Popular Music,  
2016

Ello Sings the Song-  
book promotional  
poster, Great  
American Song-  
book Foundation

A page from Rachel Morris's report on CPM activities in the Society of American Archivists performing arts newsletter.

- "2017 Disaster Preparedness Workshop," Cedars of Lebanon State Park (Tennessee Association of Museums, Society of Tennessee Archivists, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Tennessee State Parks)
- Participant, "Negotiating the Landscape of Born-Digital Photographs, Part 1," Society of American Archivists webinar (Digital Archives Specialist [DAS] certification course)
- Academy of Certified Archivists
- Society of Tennessee Archivists
- Society of American Archivists (Section memberships: Archives Management; Collection Management Tools; Encoded Archival Standards; Lone Arrangers;

Manuscript Repositories; Metadata and Digital Object; Performing Arts; Privacy and Confidentiality; Recorded Sound; Reference, Access, and Outreach; Research Libraries; Security; Web Archiving; Women Archivists)

- Member, Society of American Archivists Committee on Education (term begins July 29, 2017)
- CPM Assistant Archivist search committee
- CPM Library Assistant search committee

### *Lindsay Million*

- Southeast Music Library Association meeting, Durham, NC, October 2016
- Southeast Music Library Association nominating committee (2016)
- Southeast Music Library Association program committee (2017)
- Participant, Adobe Illustrator and Story Maps workshops, MTSU
- CPM Assistant Archivist search committee
- CPM Library Assistant search committee
- CPM representative to Walker Library's Digital Partners
- Instruction for 29 classes visiting the CPM
- Coordinator of CPM's LP cataloging project, including supervision of two student workers
- CPR/AED Certification
- Susan G Komen Breast Cancer 5K Run, Brentwood, TN, October 2016

### *Martin Fisher*

- Cylinder recordings with artists Mei Han, The Americans, Kayopó singers; for classes led by MTSU faculty members Val Hoepfner, Mike Alleyne, Katie Foss,



Sarah Crocker, Michael Fleming; for visiting groups from Blackbird Academy, The Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville; and on site at the Hermitage Library, Bill Monroe Mandolin Camp, and Breaking Up Winter old-time music retreat.

- MTSU audiovisual documentation: Tracy Nelson program, CPM Brown Bag events, Peter Guralnick talk, Ken Perlman and Bobby Taylor performance, International Country Music Conference
- “Reissuing Regional Old-Time Music,” panelist, Knoxville Stomp, May 2016
- Board member, Association for Recorded Sound Collections
- Board member, Tennessee Folklore Society



Martin Fisher recording noted old-time musicians Erynn Marshall and Carl Jones at Breaking Up Winter, Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

### *Olivia Beaudry*

- Member, Inter-Museum Council of Nashville; participated in Polk Home tour, Lane Motor Museum tour, Ancient Native American Sculptures of Tennessee
- Society of American Archivists conference, Atlanta, GA, August 2016
- Member, National Council of Public History
- “2017 Disaster Preparedness Workshop,” Cedars of Lebanon State Park (Tennessee Association of Museums, Society of Tennessee Archivists, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and Tennessee State Parks)
- Participant, “Negotiating the Landscape of Born-Digital Photographs, Part 1,” Society of American Archivists webinar (Digital Archives Specialist [DAS] certification course)
- Participant, “Advocacy Café,” Society of American Archivists five-part webinar
- MTSU Digital Partners workshop: Adobe Illustrator
- Attended Digital Humanities Seminar by Dr. Molly Taylor-Poleskey, “Defining Digital Humanities and the Future of DH at MTSU”
- International Country Music Conference
- Second reader for *International Country Music Conference Journal*
- Photographer for articles published on musicrow.com and Belmont news
- Society of American Archivists (Section memberships: Lone Arrangers; Recorded Sound; Reference, Access, and Outreach; Research Libraries; Students and New Archives Professionals)
- CPM Tour Guide for History Day 2017



### *Yvonne Elliott*


- MTSU Association of Secretarial and Clerical Employees (ASCE): Fall Reception, Professional Development Workshop, Fundraising, Scholarship Committee, Holiday Celebration
- MTSU Commencement Herald: Fall 2016 and Spring 2017
- Training: PCard Refresher Course, Skype for Business, HR Updated Workflow and EPAF
- College of Media and Entertainment: Fall and Spring Faculty-Staff Meetings, Student Appreciation Holiday Luncheons
- MTSU Employee Charitable Giving Campaign
- Open Arms Faculty and Staff Fellowship; See You at the Pole
- MTSU Volunteer Fair
- State of Tennessee Notary Public
- Community Service: Alzheimer's Association, Mid-South and Southeast Tennessee chapters; Rutherford County Walk to End Alzheimer's, walk committee and team retention chairperson, Champion's Club; Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Alzheimer's Walk Kickoff; NHC-Murfreesboro block party; Rutherford County Employee Wellness Fair, walk celebration; Chattanooga Walk to End Alzheimer's, Grand Champion's Club, Kickoff Luncheon; MFRD Toys for Tots

### *Stephanie Bandel-Koroll*

- American Library Association Certified Cataloging Music Resources in RDA course
- Book review for the Tennessee Library Association's *Tennessee Libraries* (forthcoming)

### *John Fabke*


- Various performances with Bluegrass Hall of Fame member Roland White and many other top musicians in bluegrass and old-time music
- Host of Acoustic Monday series at Perk and Cork, East Nashville
- Independent designer and screen print artist for musicians and musical events across the country, including custom posters for IBMA, the Bluegrass Situation, The Station Inn, and many others
- Producer or co-producer for all releases and reissues on Spring Fed Records




**SHOUT  
&  
SHINE**

A Celebration of Diversity in Bluegrass

Featuring  
Kaia Kater  
Joe Walsh  
Chris Jones  
Amythyst Kiah  
Missy Raines &  
the New Hip  
10 String Symphony  
Mipso



Featuring  
Kimber Ludiker  
Greg Donlan  
Tristan Scroggins  
John Teer  
Dave Wilson  
Judo Aaron Allison  
and more!  
M.C.-Justin Hiltner



Tuesday, September 27, 10pm to 2am - the Pour House, Raleigh, NC

Open to the public - Free with IBMA conference badge

Poster by John Fabke.





### The CPM in Print

Center materials expressly used in published books and articles

Candace Bailey, "Binder's Volumes as Musical Commonplace Books: The Transmission of Cultural Codes in the Antebellum South" *Journal of the Society of American Music* 10/4 (November 2016): 446-469.

E. Richard McKinstry, "Paper Ephemera: Online Collections and Resources" *College and Research Libraries News* 77/9 (October 2016): 460-463.

Travis Stimeling, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Country Music* (Oxford University Press, 2017). Research for several chapters by various authors was conducted in part at the CPM.

### Bouquets

"Your staff has been just amazing in helping to organize this visit! I've never seen anything like it!"—Gloria Raheja, Professor of Anthropology, University of Minnesota

"My students are still talking about our visit to the Center for Popular Music!"—Sorrel Brigman, Professor, The Art Institute of Tennessee-Nashville

"I was impressed by your spaces, workflow procedures, and grant funded projects. You have a great team . . . and your enthusiasm is so inspiring."—Amber Kehoe, Graduate Fellow, University of Delaware

"I want to thank you with all of my heart for what you sent me. That was exactly what I had been looking for such a long time. . . . I'm so happy!"—Antonia Krainer, Researcher, University of Linz, Austria

"Thank you so much for an amazing visit to the Center for Popular Music. It was a highlight of my campus visit. . . . You have something very special there."—Eric Hansmann, Visitor from El Paso, Texas

"You helped me several ways today—both in basic research for this book and by breathing life into an old memory of a dear old friend. . . . I am doubly grateful to you."—Lew Stern, Author, *Dwight Diller: West Virginia Mountain Musician*



### Collections Statistics

	Total held 30-Jun-16	Added 2016-2017	Total held 1-Jul-17
<b>Books</b>	<b>23,643</b>		<b>23,917</b>
Reading room	12,932	96	13,028
Special collections	10,711	178	10,889
<b>Serial Titles</b>			
Current subscriptions	181	-4	177
Secondary & Special	1,617	5	1,622
General/Non-Current	505	79	584
<b>Sound Recordings</b>	<b>242,255</b>		<b>248,391</b>
78s	58,927	835	59,762
45s	38,981	814	39,795
33-1/3s	104,405	2,330	106,735
CDs	27,205	2,072	29,277
Audio tapes	12,737	85	12,822
<b>Videos</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2,004</b>
<b>CD-ROMs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DVDs</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Sheet music &amp; Broad sides</b>			
Individual pieces	108,944	1,847	110,791
Volumes	265	0	265
<b>Manuscripts</b>			
Documents (linear feet)	354	2	356
Manuscript music volumes	126	2	128
Audio recordings	4,994	6,458	11,452
Video recordings	1,663	415	2,078
Films	87	0	87
<b>Performance documents</b>	<b>3,501</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3,571</b>
<b>Trade catalog titles</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>787</b>





Vertical files (linear feet)	68	2	70
Iconographic items	19,616	8	19,624
Microforms items	2,869	0	2,869
Artifacts	219	7	226
Digital Manuscript Files	2,351	753	3,104
Gifts (value in dollars)	\$2,855,717	\$446,613	\$3,302,330

### Collections Usage

<u>Materials</u>	<u>Usage</u>
Books	1,110
Sound Recordings	2,018
Microforms	5
Serials	36
Bound Serials	91
Vertical Files	257
Sheet Music	1,932
Video Tapes/DVDs	12
Photographs	282
Performance Documents	53
Trade Catalogs	471
Rare Books	234
Manuscripts (boxes)	48
Manuscripts (online)	1,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,818</b>





## Patronage

### **In Person**

	<b>2015–2016</b>	<b>2016–2017</b>
MTSU Students	1,259	1,415
MTSU Faculty	78	111
Off-campus	421	468
<b>Total On-Site</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>2,504</b>

### **Remote**

	<b>2015–2016</b>	<b>2016–2017</b>
Telephone	39	37
Internet (Email/website)	155	99
ILL Requests	2	0
Letter/Fax	2	2
<b>Total Remote</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>138</b>

<b>Total Patrons</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>2,642</b>
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### Faculty/Staff/Students from 46 MTSU Departments and Centers visited the CPM in 2016–2017

Accounting	English
Aerospace	Exercise Science
African American Studies	Foreign Languages and Literature
Agribusiness	Geosciences
Animal Science	Global Studies
Art	History
Biology	Human Sciences
Center for Historic Preservation	Information Technology
Chemistry	James E. Walker Library
Child and Family Studies	Journalism
Communication Studies	June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students
Computer Science	Management
Computer Information Systems	Mathematical Sciences
Criminal Justice	Music
Economics and Finance	Music Education
Elementary and Special Education	Nursing
Electronic Media Communication	Public History
Engineering Technology	





Psychology  
Political Science  
Photography  
Philosophy  
Recording Industry

Social Work  
Sociology and Anthropology  
Speech Language Pathology and Audiology  
Theatre and Dance  
University Honors College

**Patrons from 21 U.S. States visited the CPM in 2016-2017**

Alabama	New York
Arkansas	North Carolina
California	Pennsylvania
Delaware	South Carolina
Georgia	South Dakota
Illinois	Tennessee
Indiana	Texas
Kentucky	Virginia
Maryland	West Virginia
Minnesota	Wyoming
Montana	

**Patrons from 7 foreign countries visited the CPM in 2016-2017**

Australia  
Brazil  
Canada  
China  
England (United Kingdom)  
Guatemala  
Japan

**Social Media**

- Instagram: 288 followers
- Facebook: 1,309 likes
- Twitter: 2,292 followers
- Newsletter: 144 subscribers
- Society of American Archivists Instagram takeover, March 6-12, 2017
- Bluegrass Situation Instagram takeover, March 27, 2017
- #AskAnArchivistDay on Twitter, October 5, 2016





### The 2016-2017 Budget

The CPM budget remains healthy at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The combined budget from state appropriations and MTSU matching funds totaled \$768,296, and the CPM looks to carry over more than \$100,000 of that amount to 2016-2017. The reserve is partly attributable to staff turnover, with some staff positions remaining vacant while searches are undertaken. With the new hires described above, the CPM is once again fully staffed.

Some of the carryover will be used for a much-needed renovation of the CPM reading room, to be undertaken early in the next fiscal year. The budget for these renovations is set at just under \$30,000. More extensive renovations are still needed in the archive room, and a design estimate for this work totals nearly \$300,000. Plans are underway to apply for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to make this work possible.

Development continues to strengthen, particularly in the assessed value of material donations. Once the appraisal paperwork is completed on donations described in this report, it is estimated that the added value to the university will exceed \$400,000 (to be reported in FY2017-2018).

*Follow the CPM on Social Media and on Our Website!*



[mtsu.edu/popmusic](http://mtsu.edu/popmusic)



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