

## Music Division

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**Mission:** The Music Division has custody of a vast and diverse collection of materials numbering approximately 25 million items and spanning more than one thousand years of Western music history and practice. These holdings include the classified music and book collections, music and literary manuscripts, iconography, microforms, periodicals, musical instruments, published and unpublished copyright deposits, and more than 600 special collections in music, theater, and dance. The Division also operates the Performing Arts Reading Room and administers a prestigious program of concerts.

## Highlights from Fiscal Year 2019

- The Division completed the processing and finding aid for the 17,700-item collection of jazz pianist, composer and arranger Billy Strayhorn (1915-67); conducted a public, taped interview with family members and colleagues, produced a press release, blog and video promo with Dr. Hayden, and, following a timely NPR mention, immediately began serving the collection to scholars.
- The Division hired 16 FTEs, including 9 NEPR hires (5 archivists, 4 archival technicians) Head of Acquisitions and Processing, 2 concert producers, 3 reference technicians and an audiovisual production specialist.
- The Division established a team to identify and report rare and important holdings to RISM (Répertoire International des Sources Musicales). To date, we have reported c. 300 early imprints, and identified c. 260 additional items that do not yet have entries in the RISM database. We have also discovered 70+ items that had neither Voyager nor RISM records, meaning they were totally unknown; in some cases, the Library was the only known repository. Music scholars eagerly await each new installment of LC entries.
- The Division presented a series of events, including panel discussions, talks, displays, and performances, focusing on the history and preservation of video game music. This culminated in a day-long arcade of playable vintage videogames (ca. 3,000 participants), and a performance of a commission of an

interactive composition for a newly created video game. The multigenerational appeal of these unique events brought in new audiences of all ages.

- The Division's Digital Projects Team put online 3 new digital presentations: Women's Suffrage in Sheet Music, Books about Music before 1800 (approx. 2,000 items), and 10th-16th Century Liturgical Chants. In addition, they successfully migrated the Federal Theatre Project from American Memory to Project One, updating it and adding more than 5,500 items.

## National Audio-Visual Conservation Center

### Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division

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#### Highlights from Fiscal Year 2019

- Led Library Services' efforts to modernize its audiovisual collections management system, a Library-wide priority for FY2019. NAVCC documented the current state of all its workflows, developed a new metadata schema to reduce the cost of data migration to the new system, wrote the statement of work for procurement, and reached all milestones on time.
- Completed a multi-year project to build out the Library's first ever multi-track audio preservation room and workflows. The facility will be able to capture multi-track recordings at the highest resolution audio available in the industry.
- Preserved 41,643 collection items, including 17,245 video items, 15,365 sound recordings, 2,673 reels of film, as well as 6,360 digitized television and radio programs added to the American Archive of Public Broadcasting collaboration with WGBH.
- Signed a groundbreaking agreement with Paramount Pictures to increase access to more than 100 silent feature films in the Paramount Collection produced from 1914-1930. The agreement allows the Library to stream the films online and loan digital copies for public screenings – the first time any major Hollywood studio has allowed such broad access.
- Finalized two major collaborative agreements to digitize and make accessible two important recorded sound collections. National Public Radio and the Sigmund Freud Archives will fund the digitization of over 20,000 audio recordings in the two collections.
- Organized the eighth annual "Mostly Lost" Film Identification Workshop, with 200 attendees from around the world participating in the three-day event. Films screened were from the Library's holdings and other archives and collectors throughout North America and Europe. Numerous presentations on neglected aspects of film history were featured.



## News from the Library of Congress

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Music OCLC Users Group Annual Meeting  
Music Library Association Annual Meeting  
Norfolk, Virginia, February 24-29, 2020

## American Folklife Center

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The Library of Congress American Folklife Center (AFC), created by an Act of Congress in 1976 to "preserve and present American folklife," collects, safeguards, and provides access to the unparalleled collections of the Archive of Folk Culture. These collections contain one-of-a-kind documentation of traditional cultural expressions that date from the end of the nineteenth century through the present. These collections preserve for future researchers a record of the folklife, cultural expressions, traditional arts, and oral histories of Americans and our global neighbors.

## Highlights from Fiscal Year 2019

- Accessioned 38 new collections and collection accruals documenting expressive culture in the United States and around the world, totaling 277,930 items, including 216,414 non-purchase items by gift and 61,516 purchases or additions to collections already purchased. These acquisitions included 163,978 digital items, amounting to over half of the newly received material. AFC acquired significant materials in each area in such varied formats as audio-visual digital material, sound recordings, photographs, and film as well as manuscripts. Materials cover 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, as well as 18 foreign nations in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- Collection priorities have included U.S. Veterans Oral Histories, Latina/o Folklife, Women's Folklife, Web Cultures, and Occupational Folklife.