

SOAR Research Proposal: SUMMER 2012
Moravian Music: An 18th Century German Legacy

Faculty: Dr. Hilde Binford, Chair, Department of Music
Assisted by Gwyneth A. Michel, Assistant Director, Moravian Music Foundation
Student: Melissa Zirkel '13. BA German Studies, BMus Music Education. GPA: 3.98.
Music GPA: [REDACTED] German GPA: [REDACTED]
Dates: May 29, 2012 – August 3, 2012. Ten weeks.

Project Description

Moravian Music: An 18th Century German Legacy describes both the research activity and experiential nature of the summer project, undertaken in collaboration between the Moravian College Music Department and the Moravian Music Foundation. Melissa Zirkel, a double major in German Studies and Music Education, will obtain invaluable experience in cataloging and preparing modern performance editions of anthems and instrumental pieces from manuscript copies in the archival collections of the Moravian Music Foundation. In addition, she will participate in a two-week German Script course offered from June 4-15, 2012, which will prepare her to read and decipher 18th-century German script.

The Moravian Music Foundation is custodian of some 10,000 manuscripts and early imprints of music composed, copied, and collected by the early Moravian settlers in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Less than ten percent of these pieces have been prepared for modern performance. This process involves the careful and time-consuming creation of a full choral/orchestral score from manuscripts of individual performance parts; often the comparison of two or more copies of the same work in different hands and in different locations; the resolution of difficulties caused by copying errors, damage to manuscripts, or missing parts; the creation of a piano or organ reduction from orchestral parts; and translation of the text from 18th-century German into modern English; painstaking proofreading and correction; the creation of performance recommendations for the modern choir and orchestra; and final preparation of music preparatory for publication in the Moravian Music Foundation's music series. This series is under the supervision of Dr. Nola Reed Knouse, Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, with Gwyneth Michel as Series Editor. This proposal indicates that Melissa will prepare editions of one to three works; the final output will depend on the length and complexity of the works selected, and on the magnitude of editorial decisions that may need to be made with each piece. In addition to her work with Dr. Binford, Melissa will also work with Gwyneth Michel. Gwyn is a professional editor with some 25 years' experience, and she will supervise Melissa's editorial work for accuracy, clarity, and scholarly and musical integrity.

Roles and Responsibilities, Schedule

The summer project will encompass the ten weeks from May 29 – August 3.

May 29 – June 1	introduction to archive, selection of works
June 4 – July 15	German Script Course at Moravian Archives
July 18 – August 3	Work on transcriptions and editions, final report

Benefits

The benefits to Melissa are many: practical experience in scholarly music editing from original sources, along with their history and performance decisions; and experience in reading and deciphering 18th century German script. The benefits to the Moravian Music Foundation are the creation of new works ready for publication and performance. The College will benefit from Melissa's experience and the availability of new editions for performance consideration by the College choir. Melissa's project will benefit Dr. Binford, as she continues her work with the Moravian History and Music Conference and research of 18th-century music of Pietists and Anabaptists.

Budget

1.	Melissa will need on-campus housing from May 29 through August 3.	
2.	Tuition for German Script Course (\$700, of which Melissa will pay \$200)	\$500.00
3.	Stipend for Melissa (40 hours/week, 10 weeks)	\$3,000.00
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	Total expenditures requested	\$3,500.00

Other Information

Through this project, Melissa will be the principal editor of these music works, making all the preliminary editorial decisions and thus learning in the best way possible the challenges, difficulties, and rewards of scholarly music editing. Although Dr. Binford will supervise the project, Melissa will benefit from working closely with Gwyneth Michel in the creation of these editions, and any final editorial decisions will be made in collaboration between the principal editor (Melissa) and the Moravian Music Foundation.

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Other: On-campus housing requested

Statement of Purpose

Deep rooted in its musical traditions, the Moravian Church has music that dates back to the beginning of the 18th century, specifically to the year 1740. Over one million pages of works still exist today and are currently stored at the Moravian Archives as well as their southern province in Salem, North Carolina. Not only is the music historical in that it dates back over two hundred and fifty years, but it also significant in that it spans a plethora of genres including vocal, chamber and orchestral works. I believe that preserving and promoting the knowledge and performance of this historical music is essential because this is not only a part of a musical custom but also largely a part *our* own Moravian tradition.

In order to promote the advancement of such works, I would work at the Moravian Archives doing archival work with the Moravian Music Foundation. This work would include translating a few works in German, and transcribing music manuscripts. Other areas of interest that will be invaluable helpful include a German script course offered from the Moravian Archives. The German script course will allow me to become familiar with the German language from the 18th century, ultimately offering essential elements that will help me to decipher and analyze the manuscripts that I choose to edit. Thousands of manuscripts still remain untouched today; my goal is to bring a handful of these works into the hands and public eye of the Moravian community as well as the musical world outside of the Moravian culture.

Rationale & Expected Outcomes

Moravian Music: An 18th Century German Legacy benefits the Moravian Music Foundation, my future goals and the Moravian community. The selected works that I edit and transcribe will not only be published but also have a strong possibility of being performed, most likely at the Moravian Music Festival in summer of 2013 and/or by the Moravian College Choir.

Not only will my work with this project benefit the Moravian Music Foundation, but it will also open the door to many possibilities in the future. This opportunity to participate in an internship working with the Moravian Music Foundation would be a transformative experience in more ways than one. More recently, I have become extremely interested in pursuing aspects of my German Studies major through archival work. After embarking in several music history courses, I have found that an opportunity like this would allow me to learn more about a musicologist's work, a career pathway that I am hope to one day pursue. My strong German language background helps qualify me for this specific endeavor. This particular experience would be extremely beneficial in that I would be learning about 18th century German script, a topic that is not covered in the German Studies degree at Moravian College.

This internship will provide me with first-hand archival and publishing experiences that will help me with future graduate studies. After graduation, I intend on pursuing graduate studies such as musicology in Germany, hopefully through scholarships such as the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst – German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD). For the past three years, I have maintained a 3.98 GPA; my unwavering determination and dedication is confirmed through my academic achievement across many disciplines. That being said, the opportunity to work with the Moravian Music Foundation through the Moravian Archives would be an extremely rewarding process that would allow me to gain insight into a fascinating topic of interest.

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