

SOAR Research Proposal: SUMMER 2015
Moravian Music: Editions, Performances, and Heritage

Faculty: Dr. Hilde Binford (Associate Professor), Department of Music
Assisted by Gwyneth A. Michel, Assistant Director, Moravian Music Foundation

Student: Sarah Durham '16
Major: Music – Pre-Music Therapy Track

Project Description

Moravian Music: Editions, Performances, and Heritage 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. Sarah Durham, a Music major, will obtain invaluable experience in preparing modern performance editions of one to three anthems from manuscript copies in the archival collections of the Moravian Music Foundation. Unique to this project, Sarah will be working with pieces that have manuscript copies both here in Bethlehem and also in Herrnhut, Germany. In our last SOAR project, it became clear that a piece might be significantly altered, reflecting local talents and traditions. This will be an opportunity for Sarah to work closely with pieces that are in both collections, providing additional insights to the music making of the two communities.

The Moravian Music Foundation is custodian of some 10,000 manuscripts and early imprints of the music composed, copied, and collected by the early Moravian settlers in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Many of these pieces were copied (and perhaps altered) from the Herrnhut collection. 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 individual manuscript 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 "Moravian Star Anthem Series." This series is under the supervision of Rev. Dr. Nola Reed Knouse, Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, with Gwyneth Michel as Series Editor. This proposal indicates that Sarah will prepare editions of one to three works; the final output of one, two, or three anthems, will depend on the length and complexity of the anthems selected, and on the magnitude of editorial decisions which need to be made with each piece. In addition to her work with Dr. Binford, Sarah will also work with Gwyneth Michel. Gwyn is a professional editor with some 25 years' experience, and she will supervise Sarah's editorial work for accuracy, clarity, and scholarly and musical integrity.

From July 5-13, Sarah will be joining a group of young Moravians on a trip to Prague and Herrnhut, which will give her more historical and cultural background for her project. The trip will include tours of the major sites associated with John Hus and the early Moravians. Importantly, there will be time for Sarah to gain access to the manuscripts in the Herrnhut collection. She will be looking at two sets of manuscripts – the first will be manuscripts of the piece(s) she is preparing for publication. This will give her the ability to check for discrepancies

that are unclear in the microfilm, in addition to examining the bindings, paper, and other externalities. If time permits, she will also look for a string quartet of Richter which was the subject of a SOAR project last year and is due to be performed at the next Moravian Music Festival. The Richter project has opened the possibility that music in the Bethlehem collection may have been significantly modified from the original composer's intent, with Moravian composers adding embellishments and even entirely new parts.

Roles and Responsibilities, Schedule

June 1 – July 12	Work in Moravian Music Foundation Archives, identify pieces, edit in preparation for publication.
July 14 – July 20	Heritage and Research trip to Herrnhut, Germany
July 22 – August 7	Preparing music editions in consultation, complete final report of summer's work

Benefits

The benefits to Sarah are many: practical experience in scholarly music editing from original sources; learning about the history and heritage of the Moravians. The College will benefit from Sarah's experience and the availability of new editions for the College choir to consider performing.

Budget

1. Sarah will need on-campus housing from June 1 through August 7.	
2. Travel to Germany for research	\$1,000.00
3. Stipend for Sarah (40 hours/week, 10 weeks)	\$3,000.00
Total expenditures requested	\$4,000.00

Other Information

Through this project, Sarah will be the principal editor of these 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, Sarah 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 (Sarah) and the series editor (Gwyneth).

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The only extra expenses anticipated for this project is the cost of traveling to Germany and the Czech Republic from July 5-13. The total cost for the travel, inclusive of airfare, accommodation and meals, is \$2450.