

Major Orchestra Librarians' Association (MOLA)

<http://www.mola-inc.org>

Topic of the Month (TOM) – May 2008

Topic: Library on Wheels

Posted on Friday, April 25, 2008 - 12:08 pm:

Dear MOLA colleagues:

With this posting begins the first installment of a MOLA Education Committee initiative, Topic of the Month (TOM). We hope to introduce a topic of common interest to MOLA members and stimulate discussion and comments in the form of postings on the Forum. In addition to being available in the Forum archives, the information will be compiled into a PDF. There will be a link to the TOM PDFs on the MOLA website, enabling both MOLA members and non-members access to helpful tips. We hope the TOM will be a great asset to all members, particularly those who are new members, or those just starting out in our strange, wonderful, and specialized field!

May 2008 TOM: Library on Wheels

For those of you whose orchestras tour frequently, or orchestras which perform frequently in rotating venues in your region, what items do you find indispensable in your traveling crates/cases/trunks? Also, are there any particular items you always include in your trunk which serve as aids in emergencies (extra bowties, music for program substitutions in case of unpredictable events, tape for repairs, staff paper, pencils, etc.)?

We look forward to reading your ideas, comments, and discussion.

-MOLA Education Committee

Erika Kirsch
McGill University
Montréal, Québec, Canada

Posted on Friday, April 25, 2008 - 1:29 pm:

Erika (and all),

First of all, thanks to you and the Education Committee for starting TOM - Topic of the Month. I've often wished we could have more casual dialogue about issues and this is a great way to start!

As for my Library on Wheels...

I was behind most of you in getting one. I used to simply cart two black boxes of music around with some help from the stage crew. Extra stuff like scotch tape went into my backpack. FINALLY, a few years back I designed and purchased a trunk on wheels. It changed everything! It holds two black boxes full of music which can get changed out when we're at home. There is shelf room for a pile of scores, back-up material and two drawers of stuff. And the stage crew do all the moving.

Indispensible Items:

Tape (emergency repairs)

Spare baton (Forgetful conductors)

Post-it notes (Numerous notes)
Pencils (Obvious)
Electric plug for computers (We wish)
Fridge (Will have built in next time...)

Kim Hartquist
Rochester Philharmonic

Posted on Monday, April 28, 2008 - 1:27 am:

I echo Kim's thanks to the Education Committee. TOM is a great idea!

To add to the list of helpful miscellany:

- clip-on battery-operated light
- battery operated pencil sharpener
- large rubber bands to keep loose sets or programs tidy
- the Daniels Orchestral Music, or similar,
for those questions that pop up about future works
- 11x14 envelopes for the occasional part that needs to be delivered or left for someone
- paper & felt-tip pens for signs (stage crew usually takes care of this, but on occasion the library has required it)
- list of contact information for the MOLA membership and publishers

and for the silly and practical list:

- miniature sewing kit (emergencies have included sewing a conductor's button and pinning a soloist's hem)
- a book or crossword puzzle (did you hear Tom Takaro, Houston librarian, is a Los Angeles Times-published crossword puzzle creator?)

Thank you in advance for all the ideas!

Kazue McGregor, Librarian
Los Angeles Philharmonic

Posted on Monday, April 28, 2008 - 10:21 am:

Our operations department has a trunk themselves that carries all of the items necessary to deal with various wardrobe malfunctions, first aid, conductor necessities, etc.

Our library trunk has the usual office supply items, as well as those mentioned by Kazue and Kim. But by far the most useful item, appreciated by all, is ibuprofen. Carry lots of it.

Elena Lence Talley
Kansas City Symphony

Posted on Thursday, May 01, 2008 - 3:40 pm:

Back when I was with the Virginia Symphony (shout out to Hitomi!), I ran the library from my car, since we were rarely at the same venue for more than a day or so. At one point, I was carrying the following in my trunk:

Laptop & chord
Color printer, cord & cable

Portable copier & chord
Copy paper
Wheeled cart for music tubs
Rubbermaid tubs full of folders & music
Bungee cord to tie the tubs to the cart
Carton full of office supplies
Sewing kit
Tea bags
And yes, ibuprofen for the sore muscles from carrying everything listed above.

Melissa Steinberg
New England Conservatory

Posted on Thursday, May 01, 2008 - 4:11 pm:

For our mobile 3 wk domestic or international tours, we use 4 trunks that contain:

stage folders [3 to 4 complete sets]
storage folders of each set [contains extra parts]
book containing: print-out of each program instrumentation for each piece on each program
[generated from OPAS]
extra scores
copy of bowed 5tet for EACH piece
extra batons
1/2 dozen sharpened pencils
binding tape
erasers
scissors
razor blade
rubber bands
CLOTHS PINS!!!
extra 10 X 13 paper
8.5 X 11 paper
MOLA directory

For our stationary Summer residencies [3--4 wks], we use all 4 trunks + 3 large fiber cases, and bring some additional stuff:

book-ends for extra scores
mugs/cups
flatware [forks/spoons/knife]
VPC binding machine
electric eraser + refills
rolling cart for music from library to stage
work projects [bowing new sets]
laptop
cell phone charger
plug-in phone
assorted tape [packing, binding, repair]
utility knife
some large empty boxes for rental returns
FedEx manifests

Our wardrobe trunks accommodate cloths, extra shoes, etc...

I'm looking forward to other people's responses...

Steve Glanzman
Philadelphia Orchestra

Posted on Saturday, May 10, 2008 - 7:59 pm:

Great start-up TOM, Education Committee!

Those of us who were around when this question was first asked on the former MOLA Listserv know that nothing nearly approaching such a serious and comprehensive list of library tools was offered in response to the very good question. I felt a responsibility to provide some continuity between the generations, so, I would say that pretty much everything the others have said PLUS:

Corkscrew
Bottle opener
2 cups or plastic glasses

Band-aids
Imodium

2 bow ties (one white, one black)
Pair of generic-sized black socks (new, clean, and don't let the recipient give them back after use while still on tour!)

Extra vln/vla shoulder rest
Extra vln/vla mute (the low strings never ask)

Pair of reading glasses (if you don't need them yet, you can be assured that someone around you does.)

State Department approved anthems for the various countries you will be visiting (yes, I know that these are not often played anymore -- of course it used to be an absolute -- but I still take them because you never know when the Monarch, President or Prime Minister will have an issue.)

And finally, Nimrod ... don't leave home without it.

Karen Schnackenberg
Dallas Symphony

Posted on Friday, June 06, 2008 - 3:06 pm:

Orchestra Personnel Dept. takes care of all wardrobe, clocks, etc.

We have a traveling trunk that the crew transports.

We pack a desk lamp and power cords.
Our supply kit is typical, with a manual pencil sharpener. We also have a tailors' measurement tape for checking conductor's stand height, and extra batons. Star Spangled Banner lives in the trunk.

The one thing I haven't seen mentioned yet is:

MANUSCRIPT PAPER! This doesn't get used often, but about 2-3 times a year is indispensable for us (especially when Maestro wants an impromptu snare drum part written out for rehearsal which starts in 20 minutes).

Our Personnel Manager does travel with a company laptop that has a cellular internet card. We borrow this for emergency research or emails that are necessary offsite, as our IT dept. has set up Remote Desktop access which allows us to access OPAS, program pages, email, and any other network files from offsite.

Our final step in preparation is to generally have 1 librarian in the library during offsite rehearsals, should correspondence be necessary.

Justin Vibbard
Florida West Coast Symphony