



February 10, 2023

Dear Ralph,

It is my privilege to present to you, with the approval of the Music OCLC Users Group Executive Board and on behalf of the membership, this Distinguished Service Award.

Ralph began his studies at Weber State University, focused on both music and anthropology. He then received a Master of Library Science from the University of Arizona and studied musicology at the University of New Mexico. Following his MLS, he took up a position as Catalog Librarian at Northern Arizona University, followed by the position of Cataloger, Non-Book Formats at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, and finally as a Music Catalog Librarian at the University of North Texas. Before retiring from UNT, he began serving as the Librarian of his church and remains there.

Ralph was nominated for the MOUG Distinguished Service Award by Lynne Jaffe in conjunction with his co-editor, Peter Lisius, for their work on *Cataloging Beyond the Notes: Annotating Bibliographic Records for Music Effectively in RDA*, which furthers our cooperative understanding of this area of descriptive cataloging. This work enhanced that of his first seminal work, *Notes for Music Catalogers: Examples Illustrating AACR2 In the Online Bibliographic Record*, updating the practice of creating descriptions to meet the needs of music resources as guidelines changed. A former colleague, Janelle West, acknowledged that “his book...has been a go-to for music catalogers for nearly 3 decades, and [she has] no doubt that the recent updated edition... will be highly regarded going forward.” Bruce Evans of Baylor University, also lauded Ralph’s published works, saying they have been “indispensable.”

In addition to his published works, Lynne noted his inclusion as an instructor for the Music Cataloging Institute at the University of North Texas, and his service to the Music Library Association’s Cataloging and Metadata Committee as a member of multiple subcommittees throughout his career. He also presented several times at the Music Library Association’s Annual Meeting with another former colleague, Donna Arnold.

His colleagues and students alike find him deserving of this award not only for his contributions to the scholarship of the field but also with the superlatives of “kind,” “gentle,” “helpful,” “friendl[y],” “devot[ed],” and “supportive.”

MOUG and our field of practice will be forever grateful for the contributions Ralph made which allow us to do superior work for our collections and their users.

Sincerely,

Mary Huismann, Chair, Music OCLC Users Group