

**Descriptive Title:** Ethical Access to "Music Time in Africa"

**Submission Title:**

**Opportunity ID:** 20150721-PW

**Opportunity Title:** Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

**Agency Name:** National Endowment for the Humanities

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**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE – Short Organizational**

Version 01

**1. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:**

National Endowment for the Humanities

**2. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER:**

45.149

**CFDA TITLE:**

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

**3. DATE RECEIVED:****SYSTEM USE ONLY****4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:**

20150721-PW

**TITLE:**

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources

**5. APPLICANT INFORMATION****a. Legal Name:**

Regents of the University of Michigan

**b. Address:****Street 1:**

3003 South State Street

**Street 2:****City:**

Ann Arbor

**County/Parish:****State:**

MI: Michigan

**Province:****Country:**

USA: UNITED STATES

**Zip/Postal Code:**

481091274

**c. Web Address:**

umich.edu

**d. Type of Applicant: Select Applicant Type Code(s):**

H: Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education

**Type of Applicant:****Type of Applicant:****Other (specify)****e. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

38-6006309

**f. Organizational DUNS:**

073133571

**g. Congressional District of Applicant:**

MI-012

**6. PROJECT INFORMATION****a. Project Title:**

Ethical Access to "Music Time in Africa"

**b. Project Description:**

The two year project (2016-18) will provide online access to US audiences and the wider world 900 radio programs and the associated scripts broadcast by the Voice of America from 1965 to 1989, along with a wide selection of original field recordings of an amazing variety of beautiful and influential African music recorded for the radio programs by musicologist Leo Sarkisian. An innovative, open-source online interface will permit exploration of the digital collection and the juxtaposition of audio streaming and script texts. In conjunction with the Voice of America's listener outreach programs, the project will identify and engage performer communities about the release of field recordings and tracks included in the radio broadcasts. The primary outcomes of the project are a model for culturally sensitive online / web-based distribution of digitized musical recordings and a demonstration of the power of community engagement for access to scholarly resources on musical heritage.

**c. Proposed Project:**

Start Date: 5/1/2016 4:00:00 AM

End Date: 4/30/2018 4:00:00 AM

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE – Short Organizational**

Version 01

**7. PROJECT DIRECTOR**

Prefix Dr.	First Name: Paul	Middle Name:
Last Name: Conway	Suffix:	
Title: Associate Professor	Email: pconway@umich.edu	
Telephone Number: 734-615-1419	Fax Number:	
Street 1: 105 South State Street	Street 2: 4442 North Quad	
City: Ann Arbor	County/Parish:	
State: MI: Michigan	Province:	
Country: USA: UNITED STATES	Zip/Postal Code: 481091285	

**8. PRIMARY CONTACT/GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR**

<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Project Director (skip to item 9)		
Prefix	First Name: Stacey	Middle Name:
Last Name: Althouse	Suffix:	
Title: Project Representative	Email: stacealt@umich.edu	
Telephone Number: 734-936-1361	Fax Number:	
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City: Ann Arbor	County/Parish:	
State: MI: Michigan	Province:	
Country: USA: UNITED STATES	Zip/Postal Code: 481091274	

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE – Short Organizational**

Version 01

9. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications\*\* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances\*\* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

\*\* I Agree [X]

\*\* The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**

Prefix:	First Name: Daryl	Middle Name:
Last Name: Weinert	Suffix:	
Title: Associate Vice President ORSP	Email: weinert@umich.edu	
Telephone Number: 734-936-1361	Fax Number:	
Signature of Authorized Representative: Completed by Grants.gov upon submission	Date Signed Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.	

Standard Form 424 Organization Short (04-2005)

Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

## Project/Performance Site Location(s)

### Project/Performance Site Primary Location

☐ I am submitting an application as an individual, and not on behalf of a company, state, local or tribal government, academia, or other type of organization.

Organization Name: Regents of the University of Michigan

DUNS Number: 073133571

Street 1: 3003 S. State St

Street 2:

City: Ann Arbor

County:

State: MI: Michigan

Province:

Country: USA: UNITED STATES

ZIP / Postal Code: 481091274

Project/Performance Site Congressional District: MI-012

### Additional Location(s):

## Supplementary Cover Sheet for NEH Grant Programs

<b>1. Project Director</b>	Major Field of Study	Other: Digital Humanities
<b>2. Institution Information</b>	Type	1330: University
<b>3. Project Funding</b>		<i>Challenge Grants Applicants Only (\$)</i>
<i>Programs other than Challenge Grants (\$)</i>		
Outright Funds	\$349,864.00	Fiscal Year #1
Federal Match		Fiscal Year #2
Total from NEH	\$349,864.00	Fiscal Year #3
Cost Sharing	\$145,554.00	Fiscal Year #4
Total Project Costs	\$495,418.00	Total from NEH \$0.00
		Non-Federal Match
		Total \$0.00
		Matching Ratio 0 to 1

### 4. Application Information

Will this proposal be submitted to another NEH division, government agency, or private entity for funding?

☐ Yes  
☒ No

If yes, please explain where and when:

Type of Application

☒ New  
☐ Supplement

If supplement, list current grant number(s).

Project Field Code:

Social Science: Ethnomusicology  
Interdisciplinary: African Studies  
Social Science: Other

## ATTACHMENTS FORM

**Instructions:** On this form, you will attach the various files that make up your grant application. Please consult with the appropriate Agency Guidelines for more information about each needed file. Please remember that any files you attach must be in the document format and named as specified in the Guidelines.

**Important:** Please attach your files in the proper sequence. See the appropriate Agency Guidelines for details

- 1) Project Description
- 2) Contents
- 3) Narrative
- 4) Granthistory
- 5) Deliverables
- 6) Participants
- 7) Budget
- 8) Appendices
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)
- 13)
- 14)
- 15)



## Ethical Access to *Music Time in Africa*

A proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities

*Music Time in Africa* is the oldest and longest running English-language radio program broadcast to the African continent by the Voice of America. Ethnomusicologist Leo Sarkisian created the weekly program in the early 1960s at the invitation of famed journalist Edward R. Murrow. Leo recorded hundreds of hours of original field recordings in at least 38 newly decolonized African nations and utilized selections from these and other regional recordings as the raw material for weekly 30-minute broadcasts. He scripted the broadcasts – based on his first-hand knowledge of musical genres and cultures of the African continent – which were then performed by a series of popular announcers. Leo embraced the full spectrum of African musical practices. Included within the corpus of recordings are: the only known recording of Louis Armstrong performing at the 1967 Tunis Festival; the first known recording of famed Nigerian Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, the first known recording of Guinea’s popular Bembeya Jazz Band, and so much more. Traditional music, chorale music, big band music, Afro-funk, Latin covers, and Western-style opera and symphonies by African composers are included among Leo’s ~500 field recordings.

**Importance to the Humanities:** *Music Time in Africa* radio programs have never been heard since the original broadcasts or beyond the deep and wide listener base in Africa, so opening the program and its underlying live field recordings will be a revelation about cross-cultural musical heritage. Nearly the entire contents of the Leo Sarkisian Library, which was assembled as part of the work of a federal government agency, is now held by the University of Michigan Library and will be physically available for consultation. The purpose of “Ethical Access to *Music Time in Africa*” is to provide online access to US audiences and the wider world to the radio programs from 1965 to 1989, along with a wide selection of Leo’s original field recordings and the associated scripts that anchor the music in its cultural context. In the context of the project, “ethical access” involves attempting to overcome some of the substantial legal barriers to listening online to live musical recordings by collaborating with performers and their communities in the management of their cultural heritage. The project is an important exploration of the relationship between musical heritage and the interpretive power of vocal expression through radio programming. The products of the project are primary sources for teaching and scholarship in a wide range of disciplines, including literature, history, anthropology, ethnomusicology, and cultural, media, and information studies.

**Principal Activities:** “Ethical Access to *Music Time in Africa*” is a partnership between the University of Michigan and the Voice of America, led by three senior faculty from the School of Information and the departments of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies. The project encompasses the digitization and delivery of a selection of radio programs, scripts, and associated live field recordings from the Leo Sarkisian Archive. The plan of work calls for three integrated activities: digitization; delivery systems integration; and performer-oriented access management. Initial steps include the creation of preservation masters of 900 reels of tape, digitization (image and full text OCR) of radio program scripts, and the audio file processing of these digital products to create textual transcriptions. An innovative, open-source online interface will permit exploration of the corpus and the juxtaposition of audio streaming and script texts. In conjunction with the Voice of America’s listener outreach programs, the project will identify and engage performer communities about the release of field recordings and tracks included in the radio broadcasts.

**Expected Results:** The preservation of and access to audiovisual resources is the “brittle books” crisis of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a crisis that begs for action and requires innovative solutions to very knotty problems of access and use. The primary outcomes of the project are a model for ethically and culturally sensitive online / web-based distribution of digitized musical recordings and a demonstration of the power of community engagement in managing musical intellectual property. The project will also make available an amazing variety of beautiful and influential African music in the context of its original shortwave radio broadcast.

# Ethical Access to “Music Time in Africa”

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## Ethical Access to “Music Time in Africa”

### I. SIGNIFICANCE

The project’s significance is grounded in the rich quality and extraordinary value of the *Music Time in Africa* (MTiA) radio program recordings and the original live field recordings made by Leo Sarkisian (b. 1921). This intrinsic value is amplified through the project’s innovative approach to preservation and access. This section discusses significance in three contexts: 1) *Music Time in Africa* and the Leo Sarkisian Archive; 2) the challenges of making available recorded musical heritage; and 3) the cultural mandates that determine an “ethical access” to culturally significant musical heritage.

#### *Music Time in Africa* and the Leo Sarkisian Archive

*Music Time in Africa* is the oldest and longest-running radio program broadcast by the Voice of America (VoA), the official broadcast agency of the US government (Heil 2003).<sup>1</sup> Ethnomusicologist Leo Sarkisian created the weekly program in the 1960s at the invitation of famed journalist Edward R. Murrow (Gwamna 1992). Leo (as he is universally and affectionately known) recorded hundreds of hours of original field recordings in over thirty-eight newly decolonized African nations and selected tracks from these and other regional recordings for weekly or twice-weekly thirty-minute broadcasts. Sarkisian chose the musical excerpts and scripted the broadcasts based on his first-hand knowledge of musical genres and cultures of the African continent. A series of very talented and popular announcers performed the scripts around the selections “inserted” into the program at specifically-timed intervals.

*Music Time in Africa* was first broadcast in May 1965. Production for MTiA began in Liberia’s VoA Program Center, then relocated permanently to the VoA headquarters in Washington DC in 1968, when Leo was appointed the VoA Music Director of the Africa Division. He continued to travel to Africa for field recording through 1985. He also promoted the program by developing marketing strategies, responding in person and in writing to fans, keeping in contact with musical artist and their communities, and hiring charismatic co-hosts: Bryn Poole (1965–68), Susan Moran (1969–978), Rita Rochelle (1978–2005), Matthew Lavoie (2005–2012), and Heather Maxwell (2012–present). Leo Sarkisian directed MTiA through his semi-retirement in 2004 and his full retirement in 2012, at the age of 91. In 2012 the Library of Congress inducted Leo Sarkisian’s *Music Time in Africa* into the National Registry of Recorded Sound (Maxwell 2015, Munezan 2014). In 2012, Leo Sarkisian’s *Music Time in Africa* was inducted into the National Registry of Recorded Sound by the Library of Congress. The July 29, 1978 program—music from Mauritania—was enshrined alongside Chubby Checker’s “The Twist,” Simon & Garfunkel’s “Sounds of Silence,” and Pink Floyd’s “Dark Side of the Moon.” The Library of Congress chose twenty-five recordings that year (LoC 2012).

Because of legal constraints only recently removed by the US Congress (NDAA 2013), *Music Time in Africa* has never been heard beyond the generations of listeners on the African continent. With over 20 million listeners per year, VoA’s *Music Time in Africa* radio show has been a key part of that global listener experience (Maxwell 2015). The show’s immense popularity is evidenced from the 1,000+ fan letters that the show has received every month for decades, and which Leo and his wife Mary have faithfully responded to—letter by letter. **Appendix 2** illustrates the nature and quantity of fan mail. Some of the listener-letters included photos and cassette recordings. A cherished example is the black

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<sup>1</sup> See **Appendix 1** for Works Cited in the Narrative.

and white photo of a radio that a listener sent Leo to show him the radio the listener uses every week to tune in to *Music Time in Africa*. Another example comes from former US Ambassador to Ethiopia Irvin Hicks who reported in a letter to the VoA Director on a September 1995 visit by Leo to that country:

*“The public outpouring of support and affection for this cultural ambassador was simply overwhelming. From the moment his plane landed until he departed from the hotel, Ethiopian fans of all ages and backgrounds besieged the VOA broadcaster with questions, presents, and requests for autographs.... Over 4500 Ethiopians responded to the listeners contest, a number far greater than any other African country. Over the course of the last thirty years, his program and personality has touched more lives and inspired more young people than any single effort [sic] by USIS Addis Ababa.”* (Sarkisian 2012, 89)

*Leo Sarkisian Library/Archive:* Until the VoA inventoried, boxed, and transferred major portions of the collection to the University of Michigan Library (MLibrary) in January 2015, the Leo Sarkisian Archive was a very active and highly organic music library of original and commercial sound recordings. The library supported all aspects of the creation, production, and delivery of MTiA, from 1965 to 2007 (when the program shifted to a digital format). In its former home at the headquarters in Washington, DC, the Leo Sarkisian Library consisted of five major clusters of recordings that lived in a single room in a near constant state of organizational flux:

- 1) recordings of the MTiA **radio program** as either broadcast or the “inserts” of musical selections for the programs;
- 2) **scripts** for MTiA, to be read by a broadcaster surrounding musical selections;
- 3) recordings of **live musical performances** made by Leo Sarkisian in his travels through Africa or by African staff trained by Leo Sarkisian to make professional quality recordings on his behalf—often at the radio stations he helped found.
- 4) recordings **transferred** from other media to magnetic tape, created to support the production of the radio broadcast.
- 5) **commercial** recordings acquired by Leo Sarkisian or sent to him by record companies and listeners in the form of LPs, 45s, and cassettes.

**Appendix 3** contains photographs of the Sarkisian Archive in its original home and in transit.

Transfer to the University redefined a music library into the Leo Sarkisian Archive, housed by MLibrary in a group of 188 archival storage boxes, accompanied by brief item inventories. Under terms of a 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the University accepted four of the five series (excluding most commercial recordings in their original physical media, including a remarkably extensive collection of LPs now transferred and absorbed into VoA’s primary music library). The University components constitute the vast majority of the original Leo Sarkisian Library and now form a structured archival collection from which certain materials have been selected for inclusion in this project. See below for more detail on the materials included in the proposed project, along with notes on selection.

**Related Collections:** As the central component of the radio programs and the associated musical inserts, the heart and soul of the Leo Sarkisian Archive are the recordings that Leo made or fostered over a thirty-year period. The Archive is one of the top four collections of African musical heritage in existence. The others are the Hugh Tracey collection at the International Library of African Music (ILAM) in Grahamstown, South Africa (Thram 2010), the Kwabena Nketia collection at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana (IAS, n.d.), and the Gerhard Kubik collection housed privately in Vienna (Kubik, n.d.). All four collections span many African countries and ethnic groups; all include both

traditional and popular musical forms. The Sarkisian collection, however, exceeds the others in its geographic and musical breadth.

Arguably, more than Tracey or Nketia or Kubik, Leo has embraced the full spectrum of African musical practices. Leo's recordings include not only traditional forms of music, but popular music (ranging from jazz bands to Afro-funk), as well as gospel and African-composed classical music (opera and symphonies). Leo, furthermore, carries the singular credit for being the first ethnomusicologist to train African sound engineers, making possible African-initiated music archiving; this training process was part of his role as US cultural ambassador to newly-independent African nations, to ensure that Africans could carry on the work of documenting and preserving their own musical heritage. The Sarkisian collection contains both Leo's own field recordings and recordings made by sound engineers he trained across the continent: Radio Tanzania, Radio Comores, Radiodiffusion nationale Tchadienne (Chad), Radio Dahomey, Radio Rurale (Burkina Faso), Radio Burundi, Radio Douala (Cameroon). Hence the Sarkisian collection is both an individual and collective achievement, begun by one person and then enriched by many people. The collection's value lies, in part, in being a representation of African music that, while catalogued under one individual, preserves the experiences, skills, and choices of many.

The *Music Time in Africa* recordings and associated live field recordings are neither duplicated nor truly complemented by Voice of America materials housed at the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Library of Congress (LC). NARA record group 306 (United States Information Agency) encompasses the records of the VoA and its governing board, and includes potentially useful paper records documenting audience surveys and other impact assessments of VoA programming in Africa. NARA has accessioned some 60,000 reels of sound recordings related to VoA *news broadcasts*, some targeted for the African continent. NARA has not appraised or accessioned any sound recordings from the Leo Sarkisian Archive or its parent English-to-Africa Division. The Voice of America Collection at the Library of Congress (spanning the years 1945-88) comprises more than fifty thousand recordings of United States arts, culture, and music performances recorded by the VoA for overseas broadcast. This collection does not include any recordings made by Leo Sarkisian in African countries and Leo did not use any of the VoA recordings in *Music Time in Africa*, preferring instead to deliver African music to African audiences. Additionally, the Leo Sarkisian Archive is among the very best documentary resources for studying the history of radio broadcasting on an international level. In the United States, the collections of radio broadcasting archives tend to be regional in nature (e.g., Pacifica Radio Archives, New York Radio Archives). The Internet Archive's Old Time Radio collection has breadth and some depth, but is limited to broadcasts in the United States.<sup>2</sup> The vast Library of American Broadcasting at the University of Maryland emphasizes public radio broadcasts.<sup>3</sup> Portions of archive holdings are similar in character to the scripts and broadcast recordings in the Sarkisian archive.

Within the breadth and depth of the musical holdings lies the value for research and teaching lies the humanities—including the public humanities—of the MTiA radio programs and the musical holdings of the Leo Sarkisian Archive. This value is at least three-fold. First, the Archive documents Leo's role in training people in audio recording techniques in the countries he visited, and in doing so helped safeguard the vast and varied musical traditions of nations newly established and emerging from the ravages of colonialism. This musical conservation intervention has proved critically important, since colonial governments had argued that Africans had no culture worth preserving at all. Second, the radio

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<sup>2</sup> Pacifica Radio Archives, <http://www.pacificaradioarchives.org/>; New York Radio Archive, <http://www.nyradioarchive.com/>; Internet Archive Old Time Radio, <https://archive.org/details/oldtimeradio>

<sup>3</sup> Library of American Broadcasting (Maryland). <http://www.lib.umd.edu/libraryofamericanbroadcasting>



programs, together with the Sarkisian musical recordings, constitute a *global resource* documenting Africa's cultural heritage, one not restricted to nationalist agendas. An overwhelmingly significant amount of contemporary popular culture derives from African musical roots. Once accessible, the Sarkisian archive will allow musicians, music scholars, and music lovers to explore and more deeply research the circulating flows of Central and West African traditional rhythms—that, for instance, form the basis of Cuban and other Latin music, which then gets re-appropriated in the Congo and neighboring nations as 'Congolese rumba.' Third, the scripts and radio programs, bolstered by full field recordings, are irreplaceable primary source material. Because the recordings have not previously been accessible to scholars, digitizing major parts of it and facilitating access to it will enable researchers in the USA, Africa, and elsewhere to mine this curated collection for research including (but not limited to) ethnomusicology, history, anthropology, folklore, literature, the fine arts, and cultural studies. Empirical, formal, and interpretive work in multiple disciplines is all deeply enabled by the Sarkisian materials.

### *Challenges of Making Available Recorded Musical Heritage*

The need to preserve and make available the audiovisual cultural heritage is the twenty-first century's brittle-books crisis. Disintegrating media imperils research, education, and public programming across nearly all humanities disciplines. The crisis manifests itself in three deeply-interrelated ways. First, vast quantities of audiovisual content exist on obsolete, deteriorating, and increasingly at-risk media—the majority of it magnetic tapes of various vintages (CLIR 2010; Casey 2014). Second (and paradoxically), while unique, non-commercial recordings are arguably the most intellectually-rich and valuable materials in an archive, knowledge about finding and using these materials is almost always inadequate or catching up to the conservation demands of the media (AVPS 2014). Third, even in those cases where a tape or recording can be handled, where working playback equipment is available, and where the contents of the object is known beyond what may be scrawled on a tape box or summary inventory, access and use are further limited by intellectual property laws and regulations (Hirtle 2015). This interplay of physical, intellectual, and legal constraints is the next challenge to the survival of vital and vast segments of the world's cultural heritage. Without creative innovation in accessibility, audiovisual resources of the second half of the twentieth century face inevitable and catastrophic loss.

**Materials Selected for the MTiA Project:** The project incorporates into a unified delivery system selections from three series of the Leo Sarkisian Archive at the University of Michigan: 1) program recordings and/or the associated musical inserts; 2) program scripts; and 3) Leo Sarkisian's live field recordings.

#### **1. *Music Time in Africa* Broadcasts and Inserts, 1965 to 1989.**

900 items (each 20–30 minutes duration).

Format: ¼ inch reel-to-reel magnetic tape, mono single track.

See **Appendix 4** for a summary of the distribution of programs and inserts.

*Music Time in Africa* is a thirty-minute pre-recorded program, broadcast on Sunday afternoons (once weekly from 1965–1982, and starting in 1983, with two separate Sunday programs). The series contains selected full radio programs from 1965–1975, and a nearly complete run of radio programs from 1976–1989. Much of the weekly production work for the program involved choosing musical selections or excerpts from the Leo Sarkisian Library, then crafting an appropriate script. Leo assembled program excerpts on a tape reel of "inserts;" the reel typically mixes original Sarkisian field recordings with complementary tracks from commercially-produced and distributed recordings (45s, LPs, cassettes, and other media). At transmission

time, a radio announcer (supported by a sound technician) “performed the box” containing the script and associated musical inserts. Some scripts are in the tape box with the insert reels.

**2. Scripts for Music Time in Africa, 1965 to 1989.**

900 items (3–4 pages per script).

Format: 8.5” x 11”, typescript, mimeograph, or electrostatic photocopy.

See **Appendix 5** for examples of scripts.

The printed script is the textual record of each broadcast program included in the series. The script is both an extraordinarily rich source of information about the program itself and the cultural context that the program seeks to synthesize. Each script is a self-contained narrative, with a remarkably similar flow from program to program that remained stable over four decades. Typically, each script first introduces a program’s theme, then describes the musical selections, including commentary on composition, performers, instrumentation, and the selected track’s context in the overall sociocultural context of the program’s theme. Scripts conclude with acknowledgements and VoA contact information. Scripts tend not to be overtly “newsy,” although passing references to current events is a common feature. For archiving purposes, scripts provide invaluable technical and descriptive metadata for each broadcast recording and the associated musical excerpts. Each program script is dated. Each program contains timing marks (mm:ss) indicating the excerpt lengths and its sequence in the program. Finally, programs also provide copious references to proper names (places and people) and other identifiers that link musical selections to genres, instruments, and musical concepts.

**3. Leo Sarkisian Live Field Recordings, 1953 to 1985.**

360 items (10–75 minutes per item).

Format: ¼ reel-to-reel magnetic tape, 1 or 2 channel mono, 5”, 7” or 10” reels). Digital surrogates.

Leo Sarkisian traveled throughout Africa with professional sound equipment on which he was trained by Central Recording Studios in Hollywood, California. In 1953, he started in Central Asia (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh) as an employee of Tempo Records in Hollywood, which had hired Leo to obtain music for films set in exotic locales (Sarkisian 2012, 15). In 1958, Leo was sent to newly-independent Ghana. There, he worked with Radio Ghana music director Atta Mensah, recording music throughout the country and across ethnic groups. In 1962, invited by Edward R. Murrow, Leo became Music Director for the VOA Program Center in Monrovia, Liberia. Leo continued his work recording music and training sound engineers, now under the banner of the US diplomacy (Sarkisian 2012, 63). Working fifty years as a VOA employee, Leo recorded music in over thirty-eight African nations from Senegal to Ethiopia (see **Appendix 6** for the geographical distribution of the recordings). Included within the corpus are the only known recording of Louis Armstrong performing at the 1967 Tunis Festival, the first-known recording of famed Nigerian Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, and the first-known recording of Guinea’s popular Bembeya Jazz Band. Also represented are traditional music, chorale music, big band music, Afro-funk, Latin covers, and Western-style opera and symphonies by African composers.

**Selection:** Selection of materials for inclusion in the project reflects an overall goal of representing the creation and broadcast of the MTiA programs as fully and completely as possible, given the nature of the materials transferred to the University. In striving for comprehensive coverage, the MTiA project digitizes, preserves, and makes available for research and scholarship all of the program scripts from 1965–1989, along with all extant full radio program recordings. If a given script lacks a program recording, the associated reel of musical “inserts” is substituted. The project will also make available all



Sarkisian live field recordings previously digitized. The access and delivery system provides for cross linkages between script and recordings. After 1989 the number of new, unique programs declined significantly; previous programs were recycled instead. Leo made his last original field recording in 1985.

### *Providing “Ethical Access” to Culturally Significant Music*

As both scholars and observers note, music is a key component of community identity for many in Africa (and the African diaspora). A sonic and bodily form of sociality enacted through performance, music binds people into a community, both within and across ethnic lines. Yet access to historical sources of musical production has been greatly limited, and the capacity of radio stations, ministries of culture, music organizations and universities to conserve musical heritage has been hampered by fluctuations in temperature and humidity, limited technological resources, and shortage of trained personnel. The International Library of African Music, which curates the Hugh Tracey collection, has embarked on an ambitious program of repatriating the music Tracey recorded. Connections are being forged with community organizations in each site he visited so as to return musical heritage to communities of origin in digital formats (Kailath, 2015). This is a shared goal of our team and Leo Sarkisian himself. Especially in countries that have suffered war and turmoil such as Liberia and Sierra Leone, the return of these musical recordings means in many cases providing them with the only access they can have to that heritage. And even in countries that have not suffered conflict and mass upheaval, for example Kenya<sup>4</sup> and Tanzania<sup>5</sup>, limited capacity to safeguard audio collections in under-resourced public institutions resulted in attrition and loss hence generating an imperative to repatriate recordings from other collections like that of Sarkisian (Klesmith 2014).

A primary goal of the proposed MTiA project is to explore the feasibility of a performer/community based process, which we have dubbed “*ethical access*,” that may well mitigate some of the legal barriers inhibiting online access to recorded sound, even including streaming, where it is lawful to do so. Because each of the broadcast announcers and Mr. Sarkisian himself were federal government employees, the typed and annotated scripts, as well as the spoken segments of the recorded programs, are in the public domain. The intellectual property rights of the underlying content on the recordings are potentially more complex. We know that Leo Sarkisian and his team made the live field recordings explicitly for two purposes—broadcast on the *Music Time in Africa* radio program, and the preservation of cultural heritage—substantial documentation exists of Leo having secured explicit permission to record and broadcast. **Appendix 7** contains examples of such release forms filed with the live field recordings.

Our focus is on the prerogatives of performers to express their access preferences for the radio programs and the live field recordings. Such recordings and broadcasts (often of traditional songs) were a source of pride for the musicians and their communities. Access carries with it a *scholarly responsibility* to engage performers, their descendants, and their communities in a dialogue on their music and its meaning to wider audiences. This is what we intend to do, utilizing the tested and successful anthropological methods that co-PI Professor Kelly Askew has used successfully in six African countries for the past 25 years. If we are successful in implementing our performer and community based outreach process, the project has the potential to be a significant advance in providing access to

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<sup>4</sup> National Public Radio story on Hugh Tracey’s Kenyan recordings: <http://www.npr.org/2015/06/28/417462792/in-a-kenyan-village-a-65-year-old-recording-comes-home>

<sup>5</sup> See the Tanzania Heritage Project website, an effort seeking to revive and preserve what remains at RTD: <http://tanzaniaheritageproject.org/>

government-generated radio programs. Access will be through streaming only, rather than download. No music will be sold in any form. Upon request from performers, their descendants, and their communities, the project will provide (at no cost) copies of relevant and appropriate recordings. We are fully prepared to use well-established take-down policies and procedures developed at the University to respond in situations where resistance arises to opening the Leo Sarkisian materials. But our commitment to a performer-based approach to scholarly access mandates that the project utilize all available telecommunications resources to explore ways to give back to the communities that Leo Sarkisian and the VoA have touched for decades. In this way, the project draws on precedents from three ongoing developments in audiovisual preservation and access: efforts to make available historic radio programs through the Internet, efforts to distribute unpublished musical recordings made live in the field, and efforts to repatriate cultural property to those who made it.

## II. HISTORY, SCOPE, AND DURATION

For purposes of this project, the most important prior work with the Leo Sarkisian Library concerns the 2009 negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU conveyed rights and responsibilities from the Voice of America to the University of Michigan for digitizing roughly 350 of Leo Sarkisian's live field recordings; these recordings were identified by Professor Kelly Askew as part of her research. In 2014, a second MoU extended and modified the first. The 2014 MoU authorized the long-term loan of nearly all of the Leo Sarkisian Library to MLibrary and codified the use of the physical collection for research and teaching and the digitization of any components chosen by the University. The 2014 MoU authorized University to make digitized recordings available and defined a working relationship between the VoA and the University. **Appendix 8** contains copies of both MoU documents.

The proposed 24-month project has received no prior National Endowment for the Humanities funding or funding from any other US federal funding source. Internal funding totaling ~\$50,000 from various units at University (Afroamerican and African Studies; Office of the Senior Vice Provost; African Studies Center, Hatcher Library) enabled the cataloging of the Sarkisian collection and the digitization of 360 Sarkisian field recordings. A subsequent internal grant (\$60,000) from the University of Michigan under terms of the MCubed Research Initiative supported an eighteen-month R&D project that forged a working relationship among the principal investigators, a deep analysis of the content and value of Leo Sarkisian's live field recordings, and the design of a prototype delivery system that the proposed project will build and deploy.<sup>6</sup> The MCubed project also explored and documented the international complexities of intellectual property management of live music recordings from the African continent. An African Studies Center grant (\$10,000) supported a team of graduate students who completed a preliminary inventory and initial physical processing of the Leo Sarkisian Archive. These planning efforts have laid the foundation for the proposed project by identifying the core group of MTiA recordings, testing assumptions about project workflow, building a delivery/access system on an open source platform.

Because the University has a long-standing relationship with Leo Sarkisian and the VoA, the University is a natural home for the Leo Sarkisian Archive and for the proposed preservation and access activities. Michigan distinguished professor and advisory board member Lester Monts has been a colleague of Mr. Sarkisian for over thirty years, and listened to *Music Time in Africa* in the 1970s while conducting doctoral research in Liberia and Sierra Leone. In the early 1990s, co-PI Kelly Askew utilized a part of the

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<sup>6</sup> University of Michigan MCubed Project, <http://mcubed.umich.edu/projects/community-memory-and-ethical-access-music-ark-and-african-field>

Leo Sarkisian Library at VoA as part of her doctoral research. Professor Askew has worked with Mr. Sarkisian and his broadcasters for twenty years to help inventory and assess the value of the collection for VoA and for other uses. Both the broadcasters who replaced Mr. Sarkisian at VoA (Matthew Lavoie and Heather Maxwell) are former students of Professor Askew. In 2004, Mr. Sarkisian donated his collection of over 350 rare African musical instruments to MLibrary, where they are now preserved and accessible as part of the Stearns Musical Instrument Collection.

From 2010–2012, 360 of Leo Sarkisian’s live field recordings were digitized by MLibrary technical staff of the Digital Media Commons. Digitization processes met or exceeded the standards of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA), resulting in full information capture. Digitization produced preservation and production masters (BWF, uncompressed, 96 khz/24 bit), access derivatives (AIFF and MP3), digital scans of original tape boxes and any notes or paperwork included with the tapes, and scans of the tape reel itself prior to scanning. Master recordings are preserved in the HathiTrust Digital Library. Use copies are located on CDs that are housed at the University of Michigan Music Library, where they are available for listening, with no circulation allowed. A MARC record for the collection is in the MLibrary catalog and a finding aid for the digitized materials is available online.<sup>7</sup> The project will reunite the live field recordings with the *Music Time in Africa* radio programs.

### III. METHODOLOGY AND STANDARDS

The proposed project starts with digitization, but establishes a new and potentially influential model for providing intellectual and physical access to live sound recordings and radio broadcasts, particularly those with associated program scripts.

#### *Physical Materiality*

The MTiA recordings chosen for inclusion in the project consist of ¼” magnet tape wound on 5” or 7” plastic reels or 10” aluminum reels. Recordings made from 1963 to 1977 (ca. 10% of total) are generally acetate tape; recordings made after 1977 are generally polyester tape. There is evidence of light sticky shed syndrome on the earlier tapes, pack inconsistencies, and curling. None of these issues is significant enough to prohibit playback for purposes of digitization. All tapes are housed in individual containers with typed or handwritten labels affixed. All of the information noted on the box has been recorded on an internal processing spreadsheet for inventory control and future cataloging activities. **Appendix 5** illustrates the nature of the physical housing. We assessed the priority for digitization using the new MediaSCORE evaluation system developed by Indiana University and AVPreserve.<sup>8</sup> MediaSCORE allows for the assembly of facts about a given asset group (materials with similar media originating in a single collection) and the calculation of a risk factor that can be used to establish priorities for digital transfer. The MediaSCORE for the acetate tapes is 3.44 of 5.0, while the polyester asset group scored 3.24 of 5.0. Both scores represent “Moderate Risk-Digitize Soon” in the MediaSCORE system.

The Leo Sarkisian Archive tapes are housed in archival-quality boxes on library shelving in a preservation quality University storage facility. The facility holds limited circulation library materials, features 24-hour security, and has delivery on demand services to campus libraries. According to the terms of the MoU, the University has authority to undertake archival processing, to identify and separate duplicates, and to rehouse and reorder the collection as necessary for access and digital reproduction. VoA retains the

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<sup>7</sup> Finding Aid, Leo Sarkisian Field Recordings, <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/f/findaid/idx/m/mlibraryead/umich-mlib-sarkisian?byte=39557;focusrgn=summaryinfo;subview=standard;view=reslist>

<sup>8</sup> AVPreserve, <https://www.avpreserve.com/tools/mediascore-mediareivers/>

right to determine the disposition of duplicates and may request that physical tape recordings be returned following preservation-quality digitization.

### *Project Activities*

The project consists of three clusters of interrelated and overlapping activities, including 1) digitization of sound recordings; 2) the development of a delivery system for sounds, texts, and metadata, delivery system development; and 3) community outreach for metadata, memory, and access management. See **Appendix 9** for a Gantt chart illustrating the flow of these activities over the 24-month grant period.

**0. Setup:** Upon receipt of the grant, the project PIs will recruit and train the first group of graduate students, who will begin the project by creating and launching the project website. Content for the website has already been developed as part of the planning effort.

**1. Digitize Sound Recordings and Scripts:** Project planning has identified 900 MTiA scripts with associated full program recordings (ca. 825) or insert reels in the absence of a full recording (ca. 75). The grant will support the digitization of all 900 programs through a third party vendor, MediaPreserve of Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. The University prequalified MediaPreserve in 2013. MediaPreserve is well equipped, highly experienced, and fully capable of completing the digitization processing on the schedule required for the grant. MediaPreserve will provide the following: 1) proper levels of customized services needed to obtain preservation quality master files; 2) production files identical to master files except for normalization and noise reduction processing; and 3) appropriate access derivatives, including MP3 and high resolution FLAC and AAC files. Preservation master files conform to the highest standards recommended by IASA TC-04. Preservation Master Files. Digitization will generate three files: use copy, production master, and a preservation master. See **Appendix 10** [page 6] for technical specifications for preservation masters and derivatives. In this project, MediaPreserve will provide the technical metadata for each digital file, with all files for a given batch wrapped in a master METS record that will then receive descriptive and administrative metadata as part of quality review and post processing activities.

As part of the quality assurance workflow designed for the project but informed by the Sound Directions best practices (Indiana 2007), graduate students hired and trained by the PI will undertake a set of processes that prepare the production master for ingest into an access and delivery system.

- Listen to digital surrogates to evaluate signal strength, quality, and completeness as detailed by the digitization specifications.
- Create digital images for each music program script, which are complex documents with hand annotations and variable readability. Images will conform to FADGI guidelines for digital still images (400 dpi; 10 bit gray scale).<sup>9</sup>
- Add minimal descriptive metadata to the METS file received from MediaPreserve.
- Generate text files from spoken word portions of the radio programs, using the ResCarta Toolkit.
- Prepare sound files, image files, and text files for ingest into the University's MiVideo and DLXS access platforms.

**2. Access System Development:** A robust access and delivery system is the centerpiece of the project. The MTiA delivery system will support search and discovery of radio programs by full text of the script as well as faceted search and browse by a number of criteria, including date of broadcast, geographic topic,

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<sup>9</sup> Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative, Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials, August 2010, <http://www digitizationguidelines.gov/guidelines/digitize-technical.html>

musical genre, instrumentation, musician name, and song title, where available. Much of the information for searching will be extracted from the scripts, which are such a rich source of information on a given program. The underlying tools for search, sound file streaming, and image/text display will support a dynamic web interface. The budget for the grant provides for the technical consulting needed to integrate the audio content (radio programs and live field recordings) with image and text content (scripts) behind an elegant dynamic web interface. Plans call for an ongoing evaluation and testing of the usability and accessibility of the access and delivery implementation by bringing the project into graduate-level course *SI 622 Needs Assessment and Usability Evaluation*. The course works with external clients to improve interface designs in real-world settings. A prototype demonstration of the interface and its core functions is viewable at: <http://104.131.68.25/demo/>

**Descriptive Metadata:** The MTiA project will use the PBCore descriptive metadata standard to catalog individual reels. PBCore is a used by audiovisual collections such as the Smithsonian Channel, the Dance Heritage Coalition, the Alliance for Community Media, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum (PBCore 2015). PBCore has been successfully implemented to archive radio programs and scripts such as WHYY's Fresh Air. The American Archive of Public Broadcasting has taken an active role in developing PBCore schema (PBCore 2011). We will use the American Archive of Public Broadcasting's PBCore as a model for developing a PBCore application profile specific to the Sarkisian collection (AAPB 2015). AAPB's guidelines demonstrate and provide controlled vocabularies for describing the structure, genre, format and contributors involved in recordings of radio programs. We will initiate original cataloging by using ffprobe to automatically and efficiently generate consistent data on the digital instantiations as recommended on the PBCore website. We will use the available radio scripts to conduct item-level processing of each radio program recording, taking advantage of PBCore's structure to provide descriptions of the segments and clips within each broadcast as well (again using AAPB's guidelines as an example). In order to facilitate discovery, a collection level record will be imported into OCLC and Mirlyn, the MLibrary catalog.

**ResCarta Data Conversion:** For each radio program, the project will use the ResCarta Toolkit<sup>10</sup> to process production masters and create files that are ready for ingest into the MiVideo media delivery system. ResCarta is a collection of open-source software programs that create metadata in Library of Congress METS-and-MODS-formatted XML files. One of seven ResCarta tools creates raw transcriptions of the spoken-audio portions of the radio broadcasts (using the CMU SPHINX<sup>11</sup> conversion program), then adds the text to the METS file for the program. ResCarta editorial tools allow project team members to correct generated OCR, based on a visual comparison to the digitized script. Once work on a given radio program has produced both metadata and a corrected full-text script, ResCarta bundles this information with the Broadcast WAV file, then produces a checksum that helps verify data accuracy as files are ingested into the MiVideo system. ResCarta will be taught to both graduate students (from the University's School of Information, UMSI) and undergraduates (recruited from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, UROP) in two workshops led by John Sarnowski, head of the ResCarta Foundation. The net result of ResCarta processing are usable files and the distribution of technical knowledge to students who will have the expertise to use ResCarta for other applications and settings.

**Access Content Management:** The MTiA project will utilize the MiVideo audio and video content management and delivery system to manage search and discovery of access versions of the project's audio files, to stream services through the Internet, to enable mobile device optimization, to provide

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<sup>10</sup> ResCarta Toolkit, <http://www.rescarta.org/index.php/sw/the-toolkit>

<sup>11</sup> CMU SPHINX, <http://cmusphinx.sourceforge.net/wiki/>



access controls for protecting restricted intellectual property, and to produce analytics for tracking use of MTiA content across time and geographical space.<sup>12</sup> MiVideo helps organize, catalog, share, search and distribute multimedia content, including audio files in a wide variety of formats. The MiVideo service at the University uses the Kaltura video platform,<sup>13</sup> which provides a rich collection of APIs and other tools for low-level customization of delivery options, roles-based access management, and for links to other enterprise systems, including the University's learning management systems and image and text management infrastructure. The Kaltura platform (as implemented at Michigan) enables MTiA project to establish a distinctive portal (MediaSpace) for digitized sound recordings and tie this portal into the delivery of the images and full text files stored elsewhere, while also taking advantage of social media mechanisms (blog, Twitter, Facebook, etc.) for publicizing the project and engaging users. The system has a robust built-in set of metrics built and can also interpret Google analytics. The MLibrary's robust and well-supported DLXS system will house and deliver the EAD finding aid, digital images and full text versions of the scripts.

**3. Performer/Community Outreach:** A significant portion of the intellectual and physical effort of the co-PIs is focused on connecting the access/delivery system to those performers represented on 1965-89 *MTiA* radio broadcasts and the Sarkisian live field recordings. For this project the key to our connections with the African continent is the engagement of the vast listener base for the current on-air version of *Music Time in Africa* and the ability of our delivery system to function optimally on mobile platforms, including smartphones and tablets. Through our partnership with the VoA, the MTiA project will work through the extensively-read VoA blog, English-to-Africa news, and music programming. Through these channels, we will alert listeners to the project and invite them to visit and engage with the radio programs and the live field recordings. Using simple "mailto" email feedback links as well as established social media connections (like Facebook and Twitter), the project will capture the attention of people who have tuned in to *Music Time in Africa* for decades and invite them to participate in valuing the musical performances that Leo Sarkisian collected for their communities of performers. Students working on the project will nurture all outreach and communication activities and log all information acquired about interests in the music in the metadata files for each recording.

### *Analog and Digital Disposition*

To support teaching and research (and if the material conditions permit), tapes without digital surrogates will be available for listening at two locations on the University campus: the Music Library reading room and the Digital Media Commons of the Duderstadt Center. Reproduction for limited use in teaching and primary research (at cost and at user expense) will be permitted under terms of fair use and the TEACH Act. Search and discovery of the digital collection will be facilitated primarily through the MiVideo and DLXS platforms. Four mechanisms help provide discovery beyond the core delivery systems: a MARC record in Mirlyn (MLibrary catalog), a collection record deposited in OCLC, search engine optimization, and OAI metadata provision through the MLibrary's OAI provider service.

**Digital preservation masters** will be delivered from School of Information project servers for permanent storage in the MLibrary's preferred digital repository solution. **Production masters** will be available to project staff and technical support personnel. To support processing of files prior to ingest, the production masters will be available on research servers owned by the University of Michigan School of Information and maintained by the University's Information Technology Services. **Access and use derivatives** (MP3) will be created by the digitization vendor as part of the digital conversion process and

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<sup>12</sup> MiVideo, University of Michigan, <http://services.it.umich.edu/mivideo>

<sup>13</sup> Kaltura Open Source Video, Video Platform Features, <http://corp.kaltura.com/products/video-platform-features>

will be delivered to the University on portable hard drives. Other appropriate use derivatives (AAC, FLAC, mobile-ready MP3) will be developed as part of post-scan file processing.

#### IV. SUSTAINABILITY

The proposed project represents a strong and continuing partnership between a team of University of Michigan faculty, the University of Michigan Library, and the Voice of America. Each partner has one or more roles to play that help ensure the sustainability of preservation, access, and the project itself. The faculty team of co-PIs provides intellectual continuity prior to, during the course of, and following the completion of the proposed project. For the faculty, the Leo Sarkisian Archive is a vital component of their research and teaching activities. The commitment to sustaining and building the resources represented by the Sarkisian material will not evaporate at the end of the grant project. We see the NEH grant as giving the project the momentum and visibility required to attract additional funding expanding the interconnections among students, scholars, musicians and music-lovers, and musical communities in Africa.

Based on formal agreements and long-standing collaboration, the Voice of America is committed to fostering the project and deepening their working relationship with the University, well beyond the timeframe of the proposed NEH grant. Perhaps most compellingly, VoA deeply supports the University's efforts to reconnect the first and most innovative years of *Music Time in Africa* with worldwide listeners, and also introducing the radio program to American listeners. This support and encouragement transcends the bounds of a single grant-funded project.

For the University of Michigan Library (indeed, for the University as a whole) the preservation of and access to audiovisual resources needed for research and teaching in the humanities is a strategic priority. That priority manifests itself in the commitment of the MLibrary to store and preserve the master digital files in a preservation-grade storage architecture and to hold the archival source materials in a preservation-quality library shelving facility. Additionally, our deep commitment to persistent access is reflected in our choice to adopt and adapt open-source, fully-supported application tools to process the content and deliver sound, text, and image in an integrated. The cost model for sustaining access to the *Music Time in Africa* digital files and associated scripts and archival materials is currently configured at the University as a "pay as you go" cost model, where central IT services charges an annual fee based on the quantity of information delivered and the purposes of the access system. The costs for the access system is built into the grant budget.

#### V. DISSEMINATION

The project itself is fundamentally about lawful dissemination—of content and scholarship. A project website will convey the design and outcomes of the project and provide quarterly status reports on the project. The content delivery system will be open and will provide metadata for all digital objects in the system and as much content as possible, given the complexities of international copyright law. The project website will serve as an open forum with ongoing blog posts, commentary, and other social media conversations. The website will be supported by the School of Information computing services.

The faculty project team has an extraordinarily successful track record for presenting its work at top archival and anthropological association meetings and producing articles in peer-reviewed journals and other scholarly publications on their work. This project will be no different; we expect a cumulative

output of at least six articles (African Affairs, African Anthropology, Archival Science, ARSC Journal, etc.) or white papers published or disseminated through the website. All publications will be deposited in the University's open-access institutional repository (DeepBlue).

Given the substantive content made available through the project, we expect and will welcome media attention for the project and its outcomes. The Voice of America will promote the project through its widely read blog<sup>14</sup> and will link to the project through its websites marketing VoA programs on a worldwide level. Additionally, the project Principal Investigators are committed to the public humanities and will seek out opportunities to foster wide public conversations on preserving musical heritage and the importance of community outreach on intellectual property and international copyright issues.

## VI. WORKFLOW

The plan of work encompasses a two-year project that will proceed over phases that roughly correspond to the flow of the academic year at the University of Michigan. **Appendix 9** contains a Gantt chart showing the principal activities over time.

### Summer 2016

- Set up project and create project website (PIs, UMSI graduate students)
- Pack and ship 900 tapes to vendor in monthly batches of 150 tapes (UMSI graduate students)
- Map delivery system requirements from prototype to production design, establish appropriate development expertise (PI, graduate student, MLibrary IT staff)

### Fall 2016

- Complete digitization of 900 tapes
- Ingest digital master files for digital preservation and house analog source materials (MLibrary, graduate students)
- Begin quality assurance on digitized recordings and local digitization of program scripts (students)
- Begin ResCarta post-processing of production masters to produce audio transcripts
- Begin populating MiVideo system with metadata and sound/image/text content (Students, MLibrary)
- Design, pilot and finalize community outreach and intellectual property identification and documentation protocols (Faculty team, Advisory Board)
- Advisory Board meets in Ann Arbor

### Winter 2017

- Complete populating delivery systems (MiVideo, DLXS) with metadata and sound/image/text content (MLibrary, graduate students)
- Complete and open web gateway to access system (MLibrary staff)
- Conduct usability assessment, mobile accessibility tests (UMSI students in SI 622)
- Launch outreach blitz to targeted African populations (VoA)

### Summer 2017

- Reports and articles on initial results (Faculty team)
- Continue outreach engagement with top priority communities in African countries (Faculty team)

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<sup>14</sup> Voice of America, Music Time in Africa [blog], <http://www.voanews.com/archive/music-time-in-africa/latest/672/1456.html>



#### Fall 2017

- Extend community outreach to second priority communities (Faculty team)
- Evaluate IP management successes and continuing barriers (Advisory Board)
- Advisory Board meets in Ann Arbor

#### Winter 2018

- Review project for transition to sustainability (MLibrary, Faculty team)
- Data curation profile (Faculty team, UMSI students)
- Reports and articles on findings (Faculty team)
- Complete project and report publicly (Faculty team)

## VII. STAFF

A team of three faculty at the University of Michigan form the core leadership for the project. They are substantively supported by the head of preservation and conservation for the MLibrary, a delivery system designer, and a group of graduate students from the School of Information. The project team will meet weekly through the course of the project and document its work on a project website. The distinguished Advisory Board, described above, is an integral part of the project design and will provide continuing input on all aspects of the project. Resumes and position descriptions are included in

#### Appendix 11.

- **Paul Conway** (Associate Professor, UMSI) is the principal investigator of for the project. Professor Conway will devote 12% of his time during the academic year and half of two summers on the project. His principal responsibilities are to oversee digitization, post-processing, and metadata activities, supervise graduate students, lead the design of the delivery system, and report on the project in writing and public presentations.
- **Kelly M. Askew** (Professor, Anthropology, Afroamerican and African Studies) is co-principal investigator. Professor Askew will devote 10% of her time during the academic year and half of two summers on the project. Her responsibilities involve domain expertise in African music and culture, liaison with the Voice of America English-to-Africa Division, and leading the community/performer outreach aspects of the project.
- **David A. Wallace** (Clinical Associate Professor, UMSI) is co-principal investigator. He will devote 5% of his time during the academic year and half of two summers on the project. His primary responsibility is to lead and coordinate the intellectual-property-management aspects of the project, in particularly close association with members of the distinguished Advisory Board.
- **Shannon Zachary** (Head of Preservation and Conservation, MLibrary) is the essential administrative and professional link between the School of Information and the MLibrary. She will coordinate the management and preservation of the analog source tapes, the digital sound files created during the project, and the data-management plan for the project. She will also represent the project in administrative review meetings on campus and to the American Library Association's preservation and audiovisual interest groups.

**Advisory Board** An involved and impactful Advisory Board is an important part of the project design. The eight members who have agreed to serve represent the variety of intellectual, technical, and legal issues that are at the heart of the project. All are very distinguished in their respective fields. All have agreed to attend two Advisory Board meetings in Ann Arbor and to take active advisory roles remotely through the course of the grant period. See **Appendix 12** for brief biographical information on the members.

**Appendix 13** consists of the commitment letters from each board member.

- Jolene M. Beiser, Archivist, Pacifica Radio Archives, North Hollywood, CA

- Rachelle V. Browne, Associate General Counsel, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
- Alan R. Burdette, Director, Archives of Traditional Music, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Peter Hirtle, Senior Policy Advisor, Cornell University and Fellow of Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University
- Melissa Levine, Lead Copyright Officer, University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, MI
- Heather Maxwell, Producer and Host, *Music Time in Africa*, Voice of America, Washington, DC
- Lester Monts, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, School of Music, Theater and Dance, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- Derek Vaillant, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies, University of Michigan

**Graduate Students.** Through the course of the project, three graduate students will be employed on a part time basis (fifteen hours per week during the academic year; halftime during the summer) to undertake three interrelated tasks: managing the workflow for sound recording digitization activities (including quality assurance), metadata population of the delivery system, and digitization of program scripts and other archival materials included in the project. One of these students will be designated as lead to coordinate and document work.

**Appendix 14** contains three letters of support for various aspects of the project.

Ethical Access to “Music Time in Africa”  
History of Grants

This project has not previously received funding from federal or nonfederal sources.

## Ethical Access to “Music Time in Africa” Project Deliverables

Total amount of linear feet to be arranged and described:	100
Number of finding aids and/or collection-level descriptions to be produced:	1
Total number and type(s) of items to be cataloged:	
Audio Tapes	900
Total number and type(s) of items to be digitized:	
Audio tapes (1/4")	900
Program Scripts (3 page images each)	900
Total number of hours to be preserved and made available:	
Analog tape recordings (1/4" magnetic tape)	ca. 7,500
Total number of individual records or entries to be created:	
Database entries	900
Number and type of any other quantifiable products:	
Published articles or white papers	6

## Ethical Access to Music Time in Africa

### List of Participants

Askew, Kelly M.	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Beiser, Jolene M.	Pacifica Radio Archives, North Hollywood, CA
Browne, Rachelle V.	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Burdette, Alan R.	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Chao, Kelu	Voice of America, Washington, DC
Conway, Paul	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Hirtle, Peter	Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Levine, Melissa	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Maxwell, Heather	Voice of America, Washington, DC
McIntyre, Robert	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Monts, Lester	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Sarnowski, John	The ResCarta Foundation, Inc., Onalaska, WI
Thram, Diane	Rhodes University, South Africa
Vaillant, Derek	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Wallace, David A	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Zachary, Shannon	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**

OMB No 3136-0134  
Expires 6/30/2018

# Budget Form

Applicant Institution: *Regents of the University of Michigan*

Project Director: *Paul Conway*

Project Grant Period: *05/01/2016 through 04/30/2018*

[click for Budget Instructions](#)

	Computational Details/Notes	(notes)	Year 1 05/01/2016- 04/30/2017	(notes)	Year 2 05/01/2017- 04/30/2018	(notes)	Year 3 01/01/20__- 12/31/20__	Project Total
<b>1. Salaries &amp; Wages</b>								
Paul Conway	1 SM and 1.125 AY/yr	18%	\$29,858	18%	\$31,053	%		\$60,911
Kelly Askew	1 SM and 1.125 AY/yr	18%	\$23,278	18%	\$24,209	%		\$47,487
David Wallace	.5 SM/yr	4%	\$5,709	4%	\$5,938	%		\$11,647
Shannon Zachary	.6 CAL/yr	5%	\$4,691	5%	\$4,878			\$9,569
Robert McIntyre	1.2 CAL yr 1	10%	\$8,023	%		%		\$8,023
Student Project Team Leader	15 hrs/wk, \$15/hr, 30 wks/yr	%	\$6,750	%	\$9,360	%		\$16,110
Academic Year UMSI Students (4)	13 hrs/wk, \$15/hr, 30 wks/yr	%	\$23,400	%	\$12,168	%		\$35,568
Summer UMSI Students	Stipend for 2 students				\$8,320			\$8,320
<b>2. Fringe Benefits</b>								
Fringe Benefits @ 25%			\$25,427		\$23,981			\$49,408
<b>3. Consultant Fees</b>								
<b>4. Travel</b>								
Advisory Board Meetings	5 travelers @ \$1500		\$7,500		\$7,500			\$15,000
John Sarnowski (Rescarta)			\$1,500		\$1,500			\$3,000
PI and Co-PI travel			\$2,400		\$4,800			\$7,200
<b>5. Supplies &amp; Materials</b>								
Supplies			\$300		\$300			\$600
External Hard Drive			\$2,650					\$2,650



## **Budget Justification**

### **A. Senior Personnel**

Associate Professor Paul Conway will serve as the Principal Investigator on the project. We have budgeted 1 summer month in each year of the project for his time on NEH funds and 1.125 academic months per year as cost share. Dr. Conway will be responsible overseeing all aspects of the project, including especially coordinating faculty team activities, building and maintaining the relationship with the Voice of America, convening the Advisory Board, hiring and training graduate and undergraduate student workers, managing the development of the access and delivery system, and writing reports and articles on the project.

Professor Kelly Askew will serve as Co-Principal Investigator on the project. We have budgeted 1 summer month in each year of the project for her time on NEH funds and 1.125 academic months per year as cost share. Dr. Askew has significant domain knowledge of the social, cultural, and economic context of performer communities in Africa. She will take the lead in nurturing and maintaining relationships with performer communities, providing liaison to other large collections of African music, and writing reports and articles on the project. She will also serve as spokesperson for the project as it pertains to the musical recordings and their intellectual contexts.

Clinical Associate Professor David Wallace will serve as Co-Principal Investigator on the project. We have budgeted 0.5 summer month in each year of the project for his time. Dr. Wallace will be in charge lead the development of intellectual property review workflows and the design of copyright clearance components of the access and delivery system. Dr. Wallace will also document the assumptions underlying the “ethical access” aspects of the project and will prepare articles on this matter.

Ms. Shannon Zachary will serve as Senior Personnel on the project. We have budgeted 0.6 calendar months in each year of the project for her time as part of the cost share. Ms. Zachary will be responsible for coordinating all aspects of MLibrary’s support activities for the digital preservation of the master files and the development of the delivery and access system. Ms. Zachary will also manage the physical preservation of the analog source materials and will represent the project to library and preservation professional associations.

Mr. Robert McIntyre will serve as a System Programmer on the project. We have budgeted 1.2 calendar months in year 1 for his time as part of the cost share. Mr. McIntyre will be responsible for implementing the MiVideo access system and coordinating the use of the DLXS platform for delivering digital images and full text components of the scripts and radio programs. (Includes an estimated annual salary increase of 4%)

### **B. Other Personnel**

*Graduate Students:* We have budgeted for the participation of hourly graduate students on the project. We have budgeted for a Student Project Team Leader in both years of the project. This student will work 15 hours/week at \$15/hour for 30 weeks per year. The team leader coordinates



the work of the other students, documents procedures and outcomes, provides continuity through the project, and may be engaged more deeply with the administrative back end of the MiVideo system and the project website.

We have budgeted for 4 UMSI students during the academic year in both years. These students will each work a total of 15 hours/week at \$13/hour for 30 weeks per year. The students undertake the essential quality review procedures, including listening and assessing the quality of the digitized recordings received from the vendor, digitizing the radio program scripts, and processing the radio programs through the ResCarta Toolkit to extract full text transcriptions of the spoken portions. The students will also prepare the files for ingest into the MiVideo delivery platform.

We have budgeted for 2 UMSI students during the summer in year 2. These students will be responsible for adding to the access and delivery system the information on access rights and privileges obtained from performer communities. The students will also finish off any specialized cataloging of recordings and the creation of one or more EAD finding aids to support search and discovery of the digital materials.

### **C. Fringe Benefits**

We have calculated the fringe rates at 25% for faculty, staff and graduate students. These rates are the average for these positions at the University of Michigan.

### **D. Travel**

We have budgeted funds to support travel for advisory board meetings and conference travel for the principal investigators.

In year 1 we have requested \$10,710 in travel funds. This will cover 5 domestic trips at \$1,500 per trip for five advisory board members, plus the travel of ResCarta director John Sarnowski, who will provide training services for graduate students on the ResCarta Toolkit coinciding with advisory board meetings. We are also including \$2,400 as part of cost-share to cover the cost of PI and Co-PI conference travel to present papers on the project as scholarly and professional association meetings.

In year 2 we have requested \$15,510 for domestic travel. This will cover 5 domestic trips at \$1,500 per trip for the advisory board members, travel expenses for ResCarta director John Sarnowski, and an additional \$1,710 to cover the cost of hosting the meeting. We have also budgeted \$4,800 to cover the cost of PI and Co-PI travel. This will cover 4 trips at \$1,200 per trip.

### **E. Other Direct Costs**

#### **1. Materials and Supplies:**

We are requesting a total of \$36,150 to cover the cost of materials and supplies. In year 1 we are requesting \$300 to cover the cost of supplies, such as the printing of posters for describing the project and its goals, miscellaneous office supplies, and blank CDs for

creating portable versions of some of the recordings; \$20,550 for digitization through MediaPreserve (please see appendix 10 beginning on page 50 for a detailed quote); and \$5,000 to cover the cost of ITS MiVideo services. The charge is based on the quantity of digital files stored and managed in the system. We also plan to purchase two external hard drives (for transfer of files from the digitization vendor) and document scanner as part of our cost share (\$2,650). The scanner is used to digitize the MTiA scripts and other archival documents as part of the overall project quality review workflow. In year 2 we are requesting \$300 to cover supplies and \$10,000 to cover the cost of ITS MiVideo services through the end of the grant period. These materials and supplies are critically important components of the overall project workflow, enabling files transfer, digital conversion of archival materials that are part of the collection, and the costs for the access and delivery system. For the MiVideo charges we are estimating approximately 900 hours (6 months) in year 1 and 1800 hours (12 months) in year 2 at a rate of \$830.

2. Hosting

We have budgeted an additional \$1,710 to cover the cost of hosting the meeting. This will include some group meals and any room rentals.

**F. Indirect Costs**

The indirect cost rate used for this proposal is 55% of the Modified Direct Cost Total. This is the “on campus research” rate negotiated with the Department of Health and Human Services effective 7/1/2015.

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## Appendix 2: Leo Sarkisian Fan Mail

Music Time in Africa is a music, a song,  
a rhythm and a dance. Like the smoothing waves of  
the sea, it flows over our cooling dilating and  
feeding our fantasies

Touching us in most intimate places, it lifts  
us to heights, unimaginable, carries us through a  
whirlwind of emotions, places us on the plane of  
abandonment. It is seduction personified. And when  
the enchantress himself moves to heat, then there is  
mass hysteria.

It is the music, it is the song, it is the rhythm,  
it is the dance, the beat of life, and the tough of  
light.

Thanks to VOA,  
Thanks to Music Time in Africa  
Special thanks to Rita Rochelle &. Leos.

With Love from  
Yunusa D. Tanimu,  
P.O.Box 1901,  
Minna,  
NIGERIA.

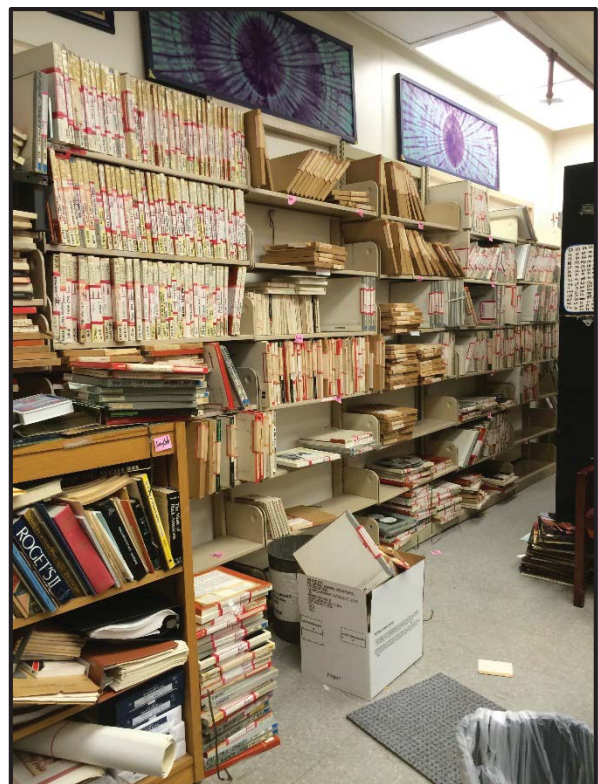


Fig. 1. A typical letter among hundreds received monthly.

Fig. 2. Leo Sarkisian at home with fan mail and musical instruments, 1985.



Appendix 3: Leo Sarkisian Library at Voice of America and in transit to Michigan









188 boxes and two tape recorders, ready for shipment



First pallet on the truck to Michigan.

Appendix 4: Distribution of scripts and radio broadcasts, 1965-1989

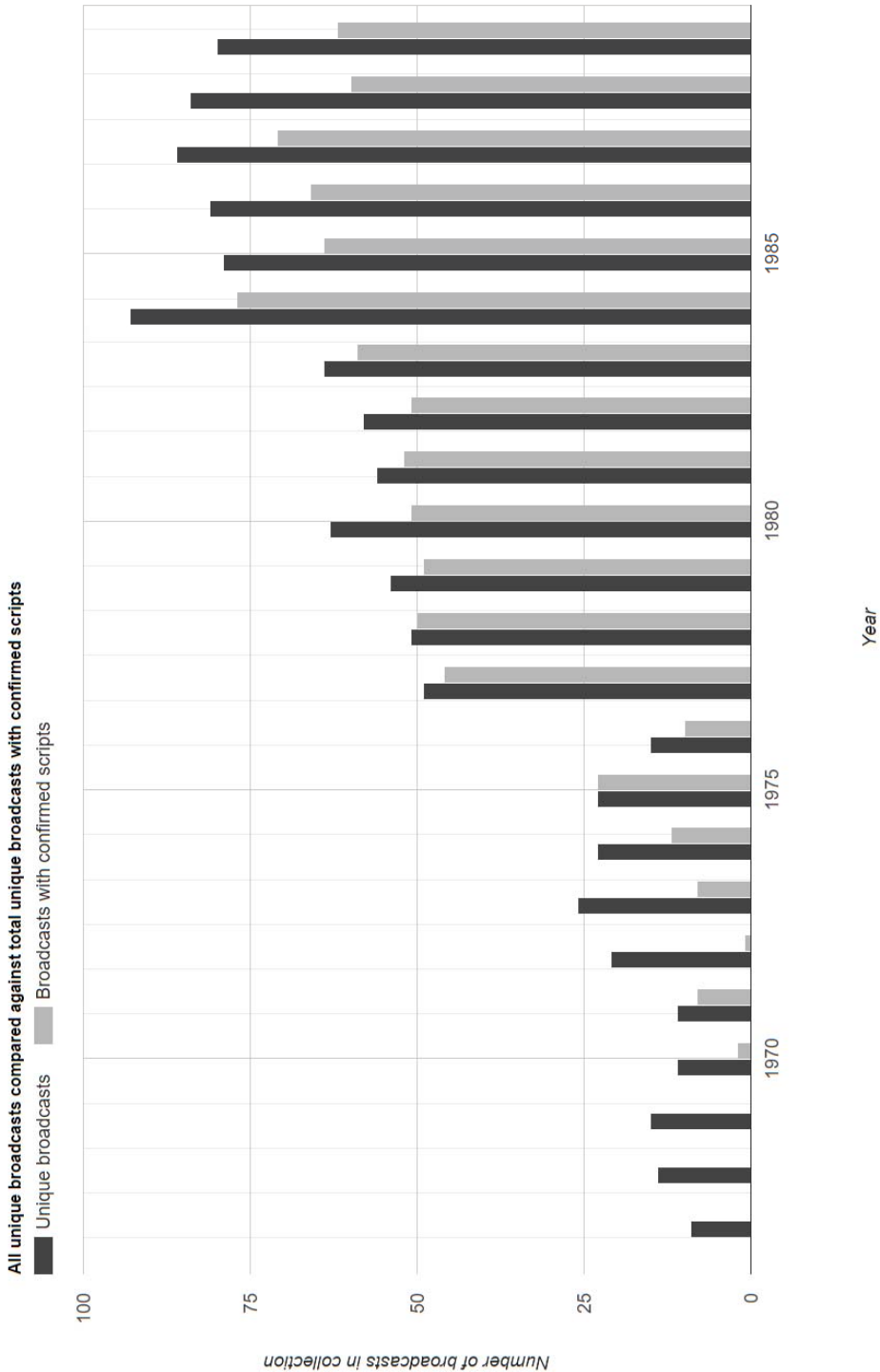
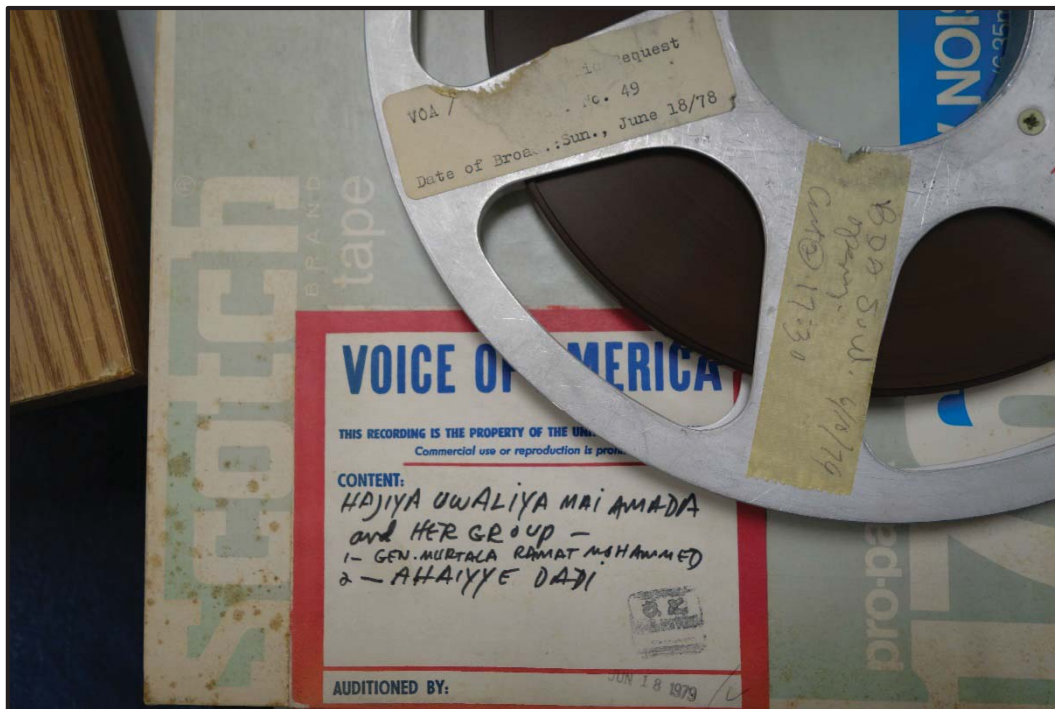
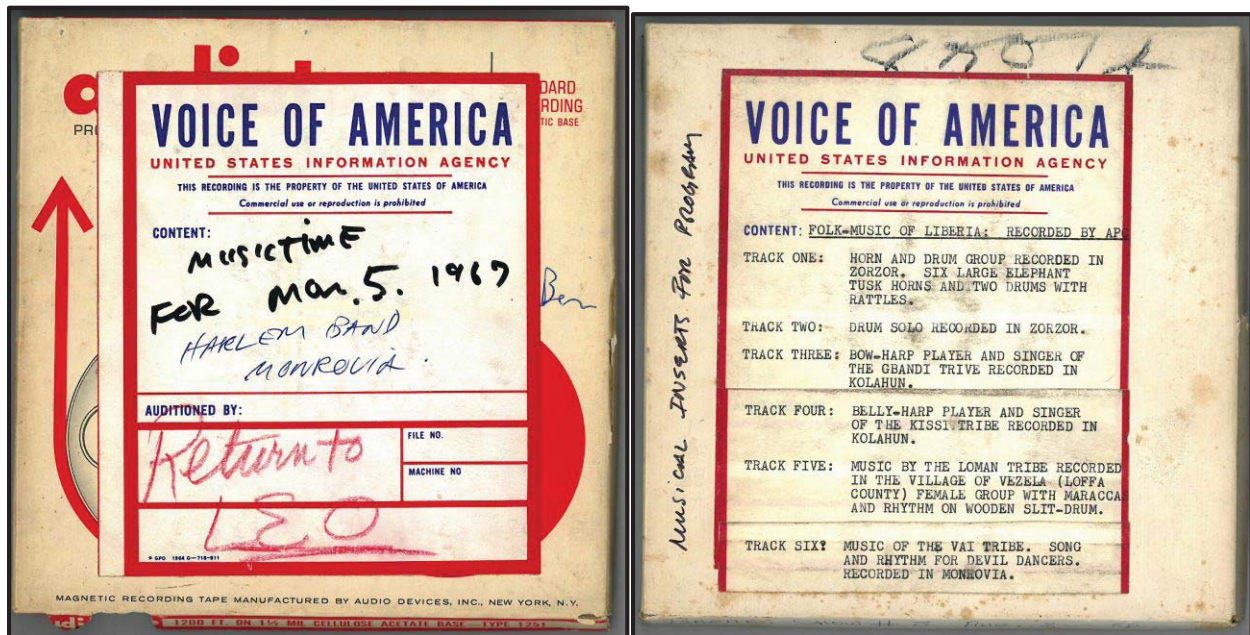


Figure 1 – Overview of all unique broadcasts in collection by date, compared to counts of all unique broadcasts accompanied by confirmed script



## Appendix 5: Tape Boxes + Script for Music Time in Africa



VOICE: The following ~~known~~ program is Music Time in Africa for  
for broadcast \_\_\_\_\_.

FIFTEEN SEC: PAUSE:

VOICE: It's Music Time in Africa:

THEME: 15 SECS: UNDER AND OUT:

VOICE: Hello friends, this is \_\_\_\_\_ welcoming you again to  
Music Time in Africa -- a program of traditional and popular  
African music featuring some of Africa's finest musicians and  
cultural groups of yesterday, today and tomorrow. For our program  
we have recordings from our Voice of America music library and  
from time to time we'll call on our VOA music man Leo Sarkisian  
to share with us some of the fine recordings from his own personal  
collection. It's Music Time in Africa:

THEME: 10 SECS: UNDER AND OUT:

VOICE: The dramatic cultural upheavals taking place in Africa today will  
be historical data to our space-ship successors. Since the rate of  
acceleration of these changes is so rapid that it appears to  
increase from week to week, it is somewhat questionable whether  
the historical-minded of the future will have available to them  
all the necessary pre-aculturative material vital to the  
reconstruction of a living image of traditional Africa. Yet one  
hopeful sign in this direction is an increasing number of  
researchists and ethnomusicologists engaged in studies on the  
importance of African culture, -- especially in the important  
dimension of music. The study, preservation and the encouragement  
of African music help to promote a better knowledge of some of the  
human factors in problems today. As you already know, from  
listening to these weekly programs, one of our main objectives has  
been to introduce the best musical traditions of Africa to those



who may be unfamiliar with them. With the aid of our own musician Leo Sarkisian, we have been introducing to you the various types of music and musical instruments, and the musical expressions of the many peoples on the continent of Africa, as well as introducing perhaps for the first time, the music of your country to other parts of Africa. Our journey today takes us to the northern regions of the Congo -- and we'll be <sup>featuring</sup> ~~featuring~~ the folk songs of several important tribes. Immediately north of the Ituri forest, in a fertile region of palm forests, we find the Medje tribe -- one of the groups of peoples associated with the Mangbetu. The culture of the Medje has dominated the region and the surrounding country -- and the Medje have also earned for themselves the reputation for singing and dancing. The steps of their dances are simple but most effective enmasse. The accompanying music in this first recording consists of four conical laced drums -- the Nabita; a large bell-shaped slit drum called the Nedundu; two ~~EMMM~~ Emandru slit drums; two small cylindrical slit drums -- Nekbokbo; one Nengbongho, which is a double metal bell; and there are six basket rattles known as Nezeza. The group first play and sing the music for the Nadu marriage dance and follow with another dance piece for the Nautu Initiation dance. By the way, this recording was made in Medje country near the town of Paulis, in northeastern Congo:

MUSIC: CUT ONE: 5:15

VOICE: That was dance music of the Medje people in northeast Congo.

We heard a Nadu Marriage Dance and music for the Nautu Initiation dance. The Medje, who have a great reputation as fine singers,

also have an amazingly large repertoire of "tipoyi" melodies.

TIPOYI is the sedan chair used by chiefs for traveling. The official carriers of the chief sing special songs while they carry the chief on his official visits to neighboring villages through the forest where there are only footpaths and no roads. The TIPOYI is a light cane woven chair supported by two poles with a two man yoke at either end. The chief has several teams of four men ~~xx~~ who take it in turn to carry while the others sing the chorus. In this next recording, we hear a group of tipoyi carriers first with a carrying song and a tune sung as a greeting when a chief arrives in a village, carried in his tipoyi sedan chair:

MUSIC: CUT TWO 5:35

VOICE: Neighbors of the Medje tribe in northeastern Congo are the Yogo. Characteristic of the Yogo is the traditional dress of the men. The cloth of the dress is stiff bark fibre dyed black or black and red. This passed between the legs, spread and drawn over the hips to the waist where it is held in place by a belt. The stiff bark cloth when properly set gives the impression of a large black tulip in which the men's torso rides on two legs. The Yogo ~~xxxxx~~ bind the heads of their young children to produce the characteristic long and elegant skull. This <sup>is</sup> further enhanced in the women folk by the use of the elongated hair style similar to that of the Zulu women, though the Yogo headdress is black where the Zulu prefer red. This next selection is a dance by Yogo men and women. The accompanying orchestra consists of seven ~~xxxxx~~ wooden horns called MBALA; a basket rattle, KEKESE; a metal wrist bell, MBILI; together with two pod-shaped slit-drums, two small



slit drums, two laced-membrane drums and a double bell. In this dance, the drummers and horn blowers stand outside the files of circling dancers, the drummers introduce the dance and the horns come in later:

MUSIC: CUT THREE: 3:06

VOICE: The MBIRA or LIKEMBE hand-piann, as we know, has hundreds of names in various parts of Africa. In the northeastern region of the Congo, among the Medje, the instrument is called NEIKEMBE, and it usually has eleven notes. In this delightful Medje folksong sung by Gabriel Ebogoma there is a <sup>subtle</sup> ~~subtle~~ sense of counter-rhythm between the voice and the instrument:

MUSIC: CUT FOUR 3:00

VOICE: Another of the important tribes living in northern Congo is the Zande. The enthusiasm of the Zande men and women for their KPONINGBO xylophone dance has to be experienced to be fully appreciated. The music, played by two and sometimes three men on a single xylophone of eleven loose notes supported on banana stalks laid on the ground, is repetitive and simple, usually of four bar phrases only. With this elementary background the dancers are caught up in the swirl of the music and compel sympathetic action from everyone within earshot. The dance itself is performed in an anti-clockwise circle, men and women together, the steps being little more than a shuffle and apparently simple until you try to take part yourself. Then you realize that the measure may be of 32 pulses, or eight repeats of the ground, with catchy syncopation at uneven intervals when you must step sideways or backwards, all the while beating the rhythm with an up and down movement of the hands, palms held upwards and relaxed. It is then

XX

seen to be an ideal dance for a very hot climate, enhanced by the friendly smiling reception of the Zande people who invite and insist upon your joining with them:

MUSIC: CUT FIVE: 6:00

VOICE: Well friends, our time has run out, but I hope you've enjoyed listening to Music Time in Africa. Now this is \_\_\_\_\_ saying goodbye and inviting you to join me next Sunday for more traditional and popular music, on Music Time in Africa.

THEME: UP TO TIME:

Appendix 6: Geographic distribution of Leo Sarkisian live field recordings

