Dear Members and Friends of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association,

Greetings from west central Illinois on this frigid winter day. The semester has come to a close here, and my office is quiet now, save the sounds of Thomas Tallis’s “Puer natus est” emanating from my computer. As the conclusion of each fall semester approaches, and the holiday season along with it, I always find myself drawn to the music of the English Renaissance masters — John Taverner, Robert Parsons, John Sheppard, Thomas Weelkes, Orlando Gibbons, and, of course, Tallis — to serve as the soundtrack for my end-of-year tasks. Perhaps that is why I am particularly delighted to share this newsletter, dedicated to providing a preview of the Association’s annual meeting in Grand Junction, CO next June 22-24, since the conference will feature Dr. Deborah Kauffman, Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado, as keynote speaker. Under the leadership of RMMRA Executive Council member Vince Patarino and host institution Colorado Mesa University, Dr. Kauffman has been invited to present “Great Spaces of Light and Beauty into Which Only Our Music Can Penetrate” (see page 3 for more details on Dr. Kauffman’s talk). I look forward to being educated by Dr. Kauffman’s address and to exploring the soundtrack of the Renaissance further.

I extend to each of you my best wishes for a productive start to 2017. I hope the new year is full of small sparks of inspiration that become great flames of discovery. I look forward to seeing you in Grand Junction this summer!

—Jennifer McNabb
President, RMMRA

From a small spark
Great flame hath arisen.
—Dante Alighieri
The Divine Comedy

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POINTS OF INTEREST

• Quidditas is accepting manuscripts for consideration for its next issue. Consider submitting your work for publication in our peer-reviewed, indexed online journal.

• Look for additional information on the Association’s activities in Summer 2017 and visit us online at http://www.rmmra.org/
CALL FOR PAPERS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ASSOCIATION 2017

“REFORMATIONS DURING THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE”
COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY, GRAND JUNCTION, CO
JUNE 22–24, 2017

The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites paper and panel proposals for its 2017 conference, to take place on the campus of Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, June 22–24, 2017. The conference theme is “Reformations during the Middle Ages and Renaissance,” in honor of the 500th anniversary of the publication of Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses. The program organizers invite proposals that consider the idea of reform, broadly conceived, during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Proposals may consider religious reform during the medieval and Renaissance periods but may also investigate continuity and change with regard to various aspects of the history and historiography of the periods as well as changes in literary culture, style, patronage, criticism, and subjects. The Program Committee encourages proposals from scholars and students working in all relevant fields, including but not limited to theology, history, literature, theatre, music, and the visual arts. As always, while paper and panel proposals addressing the conference theme will receive special consideration for inclusion, proposals in any area of medieval and Renaissance studies are welcome.

Graduate student presenters are eligible to compete for the Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Graduate Travel Award to help defray expenses associated with travel to and presentation at the annual conference. The RMMRA also awards two annual paper prizes: the Allen DuPont Breck Award for the best paper at the conference presented by a junior scholar, and the Delno C. West Award for the best paper at the conference presented by a senior scholar (at the rank of Associate Professor or higher). For additional information on the RMMRA, please visit http://www.rmmra.org/

Paper and panel proposals should be directed to the RMMRA Program Committee via email to RMMRA President-Elect Ginger Smoak (ginger.smoak@utah.edu). Proposals are due by March 15, 2017. A proposal must include:

- Name of presenter
- Participant category (faculty/graduate student/independent scholar) and institutional affiliation
- One-page CV (in case of panel proposal, include one for each participant)
- Preferred mailing and email address (in case of panel proposal, indicate a panel contact person)
- An abstract of the proposed paper/panel (250 words)
- Audiovisual requirements and any other specific requests

The Program Committee will notify participants if their proposals have been accepted by April 5, 2017. Please note that all presenters at the conference must be active members of RMMRA who have paid their annual dues of $25 by the time of the conference (see back page for the Membership Form).
**RMMRA 2017**

**CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION**

The Clarion Inn of Grand Junction will serve as the conference hotel for attendees of the 2017 RMMRA conference. The conference rate is $99.00 per night, with a hot complimentary breakfast included. The hotel is located at 755 Horizon Drive, at Exit 31 of I-70, and less than a mile from the Grand Junction Regional Airport. The Clarion Inn offers a free shuttle service for transport within a five-mile radius of the hotel and features indoor and outdoor pools with spas, an exercise room, an onsite restaurant, and a large atrium and recreation center. Visit the hotel website for a list of additional amenities and information:

http://www.clarioninngrandjunction.com/

To secure reservations at the RMMRA conference rate, please call 970-243-6790 and book under “RMMRA.” To guarantee the reduced rate, reservations need to be placed by May 31, 2017.

Note: All conference sessions of the annual meeting will take place on the campus of Colorado Mesa University, located five miles away. Parking on campus is free in designated areas; local arrangements information will be provided onsite in registration packets for all RMMRA members and registered conference participants.

Conference registration details will be available in spring 2017.

**RMMRA 2017**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DEBORAH KAUFFMAN**

The RMMRA is pleased to announce that Dr. Deborah Kauffman, Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado (http://arts.unco.edu/music/faculty-staff/kauffman-deborah/), will serve as the 2017 conference keynote speaker. The abstract for Dr. Kauffman’s talk, titled “Great Spaces of Light and Beauty into Which Only Our Music Can Penetrate,” is provided below:

> Although authors have compared the arts of music and architecture, a direct connection between a particular building and a particular musical work is generally illusive. Nevertheless, two examples of music inspired by a famous building frame the period known as the Renaissance.

In the area of music, the Renaissance began only in the fifteenth century, when the dissonant harmonies of the Medieval continental style were sweetened through the introduction of consonant thirds first heard in fourteenth-century English music. The most important composer in the early Renaissance style was Guillaume Du Fay (1397 –1474). His motet for the consecration of the cathedral of Florence features atypical proportions among the piece’s different structural sections, which has led many to speculate on the relationship of Du Fay’s musical proportions to those of the building in which it was sung.

The musical Renaissance ended at the close of the sixteenth century, as Palestrina-style counterpoint made room for experiments in harmony and musical texture that led to the seventeenth-century Baroque style. At the intersection of these two styles stood Giovanni Gabrieli, composer and organist for the famous basilica of San Marco in Venice. The physical layout of the church’s altar and organ lofts inspired the creation of an antiphonal style of music that Gabrieli brought to splendid heights.

While such specific examples of musical works connected to particular buildings are seldom found, we must never doubt the influence that a space can have on the music heard within it.”

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**RMMRA @ RSA**

**SPRING 2017**

**CHICAGO**

The upcoming meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Chicago, March 30-April 1, will feature three sessions sponsored by the RMMRA and organized by RMMRA Secretary Kristin Bezio. All three panels will take place on Friday, March 31 in the Palmer House Hilton. The first, “Witches and Jesuits: Early Modern Witchcraft and Catholicism in England and the New World,” is scheduled from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm in Montrose 2, Seventh Floor. The second and third panels, “Shakespeare and Print Culture” and “Shakespeare and the Bible” will take place in Salon 1, Third Floor, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm and 3:30 to 5:00 pm, respectively. If you are going to be in Chicago for the meeting, please plan to support the RMMRA at these three sessions.

The complete RSA program is now available online: https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/rsa/rsa17/

Hoping to explore Grand Junction and plan a memorable visit Colorado’s Wine Country in conjunction with RMMRA 2017? See http://www.visitgrandjunction.com/ for local activities and more information about Grand Junction.
MEMBERSHIP FORM / ANNUAL DUES 2017

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Dues Category:

- $25.00 Individual Member
- $30.00 Joint Membership for Civilly Acknowledged Couples

Your partner's name:____________________________

Remit this form with your check to:

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