

E D I T O R I A L

For ten years Larry Lewis was the Librarian in charge of The Library, Faculty of Music, The University of Western Ontario. During that time and under his guidance this library grew to be one of the finest music libraries in Canada. Now Larry has left the Music Library to take on a new challenge as the Librarian in charge of the Health Sciences Library at Western, and I have been chosen to take his place. To borrow a cliché from another field, it will be a tough act to follow.

Music librarianship in Canada can learn much from Larry's example, his commitment to public service and his belief in the importance of details. But the one thing which best exemplifies his approach to librarianship is his ability to foresee and to plan for the future. In this era of financial restraint it is precisely this ability which will be the measure of our success as librarians. To be able to change where change is indicated requires of us an awareness of things as they are, an openness to new ideas, and the willingness to plan ahead. Because music is so often regarded by "the powers that be" as a "frill", music librarians will probably have to work harder than ever in the future justifying what we consider necessary to maintain our libraries and collections. When administrators suggest, for instance, that by standardizing processing procedures costs could be cut, they must not be permitted to disregard that which makes music unique. One of the concepts which Larry imparts to those who work with him is that the deficiencies of one library function (such as processing) must be compensated for by another (in this case reference service) if optimum user accessibility is to be maintained. Nothing is gained if in the end the user loses. That idea was certainly one of Larry's gifts to me, and I hope that we all can benefit from and practice ourselves that kind of commitment to our profession.

Merwin Lewis.