

The Center for Popular Music at MTSU is one of sixteen Centers of Excellence in the Tennessee Board of Regents system. Its mission is to foster research in American popular music and to promote an appreciation of America's diverse musical culture. The center is internationally recognized as an important resource for music scholars.

Collections

The center operates a noncirculating library and archive of materials devoted to the study of American popular music. Collections include a reference library of books about music; printed and recorded music in various formats; and related primary source materials.

Materials span the 18th century to the present and cover all aspects of American vernacular music with an emphasis on music of the South. Holdings include 160,000 sound recordings; 65,000 pieces of sheet music; over 7,000 songbooks and hymnals; and extensive collections of posters, playbills, programs, historic photographs, and music industry trade catalogs. Collections of manuscripts, personal papers, and other unique material are available with staff assistance.

Many of the center's collections are cataloged and may be searched at the Web site: <http://popmusic.mtsu.edu>.

Hours and Policies

The center is open to all researchers. Materials may not be checked out but must be used in the reading room. Photocopies of materials are available for a fee provided items are in good condition and eligible for copying within copyright restrictions.

Reading room hours are

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Music of the Civil War

from the collections of the Center for Popular
Music at Middle Tennessee State University



A series of exhibits curated by
Lucinda Cockrell and Paul Wells of the
Center for Popular Music and Jim Lewis and
Gib Backlund of Stones River National Battlefield

Music of the Civil War

Popular music during the Civil War reflected the events, attitudes, values, emotions, and lives of the American people. Songs of the times honored religion, celebrated political ideals, commemorated heroes and battles, mourned death, heralded emancipation, and stirred memories of those at home. Music was performed in parlors, in concerts, at rallies, in camps, and on battlefields. The hundreds of songs that dealt with war's glory and pain constitute a rich musical heritage that still resonates today.

The Center for Popular Music and Stones River National Battlefield

In 2006 and 2007, the Center for Popular Music and Stones River National Battlefield are presenting a series of four exhibits exploring the role of music in the Civil War. The exhibits are presented as part of the celebration of the center's 20th anniversary and the battlefield's 80th anniversary.

The exhibits are

1. The Local Connection – Winter 2006
2. Songs for the Crisis – Summer 2006
3. Reunions and Remembrance – Winter 2007
4. Harmony and Discord – Autumn 2007

(Please contact Stones River National Battlefield for the exhibit schedule: (615) 893-9501 or <http://www.nps.gov/stri>).

All exhibit materials are drawn from the collections of the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University.

Harmony and Discord

the fourth exhibit in a series

Music was a powerful force during the Civil War as both North and South used it to express the emotions and events of that terrible conflict. The music publishing industry flourished during the war, leaving a heritage of sheet music, songsters, broadsides, and songbooks of some of the country's most enduring songs. This exhibit compares and contrasts popular music of the North and South during the war.

Each side had its own patriotic and rallying songs, and there were numerous instances of lyrics being adapted by someone on the other side to suit their own purposes. There were also many songs that enjoyed equal popularity among soldiers and civilians on both sides. These were songs associated with universal human emotions and shared experiences: love, grief, life as a soldier, and loved ones back home.

Prior to the war, the country's music business was centered in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago; there was little music publishing in the South. After war broke out, music publishing operations in cities such as New Orleans, Nashville, Richmond, Atlanta, Mobile, Macon, and Charleston were expanded or established to serve the Confederate market. Southern publishers had to cope with paper and ink shortages, transportation difficulties, and property destruction.

Music and music publishing flourished in both the North and the South during the Civil War.

