



National Music Museum

Expansion Update

Spring 2019

NMM's Center for new Preservation & Research nearing completion...

A crucial part of the National Music Museum's expansion project is happening off site, less than two miles away from the Carnegie Building: the construction of the NMM's new state-of-the-art Center for Preservation & Research. Designed to be a robust and spacious structure that will securely house historic artifacts and archives, the Center will be temporary home to thousands of musical instruments while the Carnegie addition is being built. After, it will be a hub for other relocated NMM holdings, as well as for instrument research and photography.

Construction of the Center for Preservation & Research is nearing completion. Since our last 'four-walls-and-a-ceiling' report, the floor has been poured. The metal framing that will create walls between storage areas, workspaces, and bathrooms has been installed. At the time of this writing, contractors were wiring for electricity, having worked with NMM staff to



establish the best locations for outlets and data connections. A garage door has also been installed. Next up inside: dry walling and floor finishing.

Outside — with the high precipitation regionally over the past six months — the challenge has been to dry the ground around the Center enough to finish the concrete and paving work. Stable surfaces are needed before the load-in of the Carnegie building's contents can begin. But the symbolic piano key design is now visible on the exterior walls.

The NMM is slated to gain access to the Center for Preservation & Research the third week of June. At that point, the instruments and artifacts that have been so meticulously packaged in the Carnegie Building will be moved to the Center (with the exception of a group of instruments that must be maintained elsewhere under highly-specialized security). Construction can then begin on the Carnegie Building. "We're so looking forward to the completion of this new Center for Preservation & Research," says NMM Director Matt Collinsworth. "It is indispensable to the growth and future success of the National Music Museum."



Letter from the Director



Creating the foundation for the NMM's future

I arrived at NMM from Kentucky in the middle of March. Those first days in Vermillion gave me a quick introduction to the vicissitudes of weather in my new home region. Other than that, what I have found here are great people, great opportunities, and one of the finest museum collections of its kind in the entire world.

Outside my window, heavy equipment has begun to prepare the site around our historic Carnegie Library building for the wonderful new addition. Inside, our fine staff continues the laborious process of carefully packing instruments and other objects for the coming move. Only a minutes away, other work crews are installing interior walls and wiring in what will become the museum's new Center for Preservation and Research. I doubt that there is another museum anywhere in America that has as much happening or holds as much future promise as does the National Music Museum.

The conversations that led to this momentous time began almost as dreams in a previous century. It was only through the vision and hard work of so many people through those years that the museum finds itself poised to turn dreams into concrete reality. Without the combined efforts of the museum's staff, trustees, and supporters working hand-in-hand with the university and community, none of this happens.

I and my family moved halfway across America because what we saw in the National Music Museum, the University of South Dakota and in Vermillion were institutions and places with the clear ambition and focus to build a great future. When NMM reopens with sparkling new exhibitions some two years hence, it will not mark the end of anything. Rather, it will stand as a new beginning and a testament to the work and support of thousands of people. To achieve that grand reopening, we will need your continuing support, and I ask that you consider making a gift today.

Thank you for your support,

Matt Collinsworth
NMM Director



Matt Collinsworth



Barcodes aren't just for stores!

A critical step in the preparations for expansion at the NMM has been the process of digitally and physically barcoding and tagging the musical instruments and artifacts in our collections. Inventory will ultimately be catalogued and tracked by this technology – which is much like the kind used in the retail world. This automated system will also “talk” to NMM's TMS database.

Barcoding was not fully integrated in TMS software, so we had to research third-party software, find a specific label printer and a compatible scanner with timestamp, and coordinate the installation with our TMS vendor Gallery Systems and the University of South Dakota IT department. Associate Curator Ana Silva led the project with assistance from Deputy Director of Operations Rodger Kelly.

Overall, this will be a huge increase in efficiency, speed, and accuracy as we begin moving objects out of the Carnegie building and into storage sites like the new Center for Preservation and Research.



The NMM's Becky McLaughlin attaching barcode tags to gamelan instruments.



Carnegie construction begins!

- 1) 'Closed' banner in place for the duration of work.
- 2) Workers remove the fiddler statue for placement in safe storage.
- 3) Ground being cleared on the west side of the Carnegie building.

You can help!

Your gift to the National Music Museum will help ensure our future!

Give online today at nmmusd.org

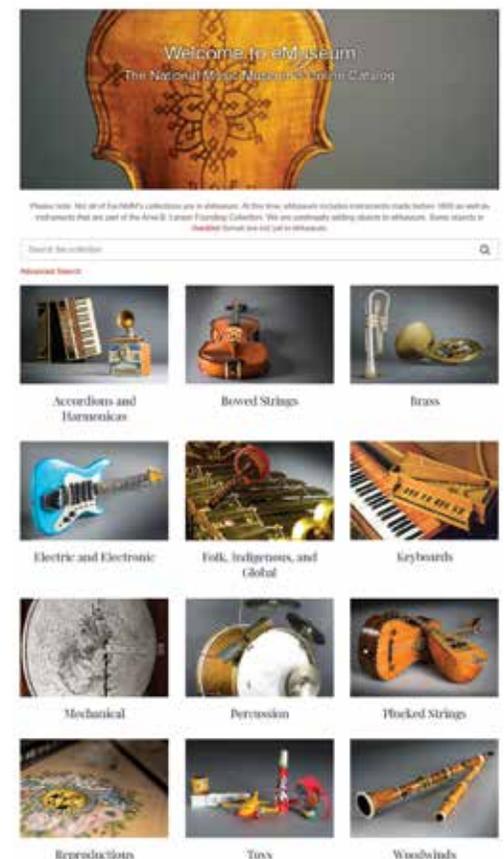
NEW! Visit the NMM's collections — via eMuseum!

Even though we're physically closed for expansion, you can browse or search some of the National Music Museum's collections virtually, using eMuseum at nmmusd.org.

Currently, eMuseum includes NMM instruments made before 1800, as well as instruments that were part of Arne B. Larson's Founding Collection. Discover many things that have never been on display, and access more information and images on items that will be on public view. Given that the NMM has some 15,000 musical instruments as well as thousands of artifacts in the archives, this is not yet a complete reveal of the collections. NMM objects will be continually added to eMuseum, so there will always be more to explore. eMuseum is linked to the NMM's TMS database, drawing on information that NMM curators have compiled about instruments. Their updates automatically display in eMuseum the next day.

eMuseum gives you multiple access-points: Quick Search; advanced, field-specific search; and hierarchical access through twelve instrument groups. You can look for instruments that were made in a specific country, in a specific range of years, and more. You can create your own accounts on eMuseum and save favorite objects in "My Collections." And, you can share your favorites on social media.

Funding for the NMM's eMuseum project was made possible by a Core Collections Digital Access Enhancement Initiative grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).





National Music Museum
University of South Dakota
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Vermillion, South Dakota 57069-2390

Give online at nmmusd.org!

Thank you for your support!

Return to: National Music Museum, 414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

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