

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## UNC School of the Arts Semans Library

Scores of Storage Solutions Made Manifest in Music Library

### CHALLENGE

Given enough time and usage, any building will begin to show its age. No one knows this better than the librarians at the Benjamin F. Ward Music Library, part of the Semans Library on the campus of the UNC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. Prior to the recent construction of a new building, librarians were faced with a number of challenges in their 30-year-old space. First and foremost was the lack of space.

The library's immense collection includes 50,000 sound recordings, 10,000 DVD/VHS recordings, and 55,000 music scores. There are also research volumes that needed to be housed. That total – more than 115,000 items – was growing fast. New items were coming in, but there was literally nowhere to put them. No less than 53 five-drawer file cabinets of different

sizes and colors, for instance, lined the walls. Each was crammed with sheet music. Other items were left in their original boxes. In addition, the ceiling in the old space leaked and ceiling tiles would occasionally fall to the floor.

*"Things were stacked all over the place – in offices, under tables," said Leslie Kamtman, head of the Music Library. "We knew where everything was, but we had to get very creative about where we stored things."*

The library staff had a few clear goals:

- » Devise adequate storage for library archives
- » Create ample capacity (including adequate depth) for collected materials
- » Provide students and other library patrons with easy access to items

### SOLUTION

With the help of great advice from Professional Services Manager Judy Baker and Sales Representative Bobby Davis, the transition to the new Semans Library was a welcome success for the customer. Working together, they created a storage system that was compact, yet accessible. Spacesaver Library cantilever shelving and 4-post shelving house collections in the closed stacks – an area off-limits to patrons. A specially designed shelving system (with 12-inch depth to accommodate larger-bound items) holds research volumes. A rail-mounted 33-foot-long mobile shelving system holds CDs, LPs and miniature scores. Oblique side-tab hanging file folders were used to help separate and label the items. Additionally, Mayline plan file cabinets were used in the archives.

*"This is heavy material," said Christia Thomason, head of the Music Library's technical services. "But even the smallest staff member can move it with ease. This new building is head and shoulders above what we had. The quality of the compact shelving is exemplary. We are very, very pleased with the system that went in."*

Thomason added that given its odd trapezoid-esque shape, the finished space is a sight to behold.

### Products Used:

- » Spacesaver Library Cantilever Shelving & 4-Post Shelving
- » Hamilton Sorter Freestanding Mail Sorters
- » Mayline Plan Files
- » FireKing Insulated Cabinet
- » Datum Laptop Storage Units
- » Oblique Filing Systems

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Christia Thomason  
Head of Technical Services  
UNC School of the Arts Music Library

## ACHIEVEMENT

The music library takes up the entire 4th floor of the Semans, claiming 5,500 of the library's 75,000 total square feet. The Patterson Pope installation created an organized, secure location for some of the library's most cherished items. The new shelving in the archives protects the heritage of the collections, while the smart space planning not only gets everything onto the shelves, but allows for the accumulation of future items – without causing anxious moments. There have even been envious glances from visitors from other universities. Indeed, for those involved, there's definitely a certain sense of satisfaction in devising a "sound" solution. That feeling was turned up a few decibels in this instance.

Numbers tell stories. Music conveys emotion. Experience teaches. In the case of libraries like the one discussed here, it's important to remember that, like stories tend to do, collections evolve. They change and they grow. Planning for that growth is a smart move.

*"Ask for more storage capacity than you think you'll need, because you never know what future gifts are right around the corner,"* said Kamtman.

Added Thomason, *"The quality of the whole job was exemplary. Bobby was a great help, as was Judy Baker (Patterson Pope's move expert). We were thrilled with Patterson Pope's quality, their responsiveness, their professionalism and good humor throughout the project."*

