

SOUTH EAST MUSIC LIBRARIES INFORMATION FORUM (SEMLIF)

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th July 2005 at Hertfordshire Performing Arts Library

Present: Graham Muncy (Surrey), Lucy Rose (Herts), Patricia Tipler (Oxfordshire), Sadie McGassy (Hammersmith + Fulham), Elin Jones (H & F), Angela Escott (Royal College of Music), Frances Metcalfe (Kent)

1. Apologies were received from Adrian Ure (Essex), Liz Wells (Barbican), Pam Thompson (RCM), Ruth Hellen (Enfield), Liz Hart (Enfield), Terry Day (Wandsworth), David Gutman (MCPS)

2. Matters Arising

- i. Buckinghamshire no longer have anyone responsible for the music service since Margaret Roll was made redundant last year
- ii. At the Barbican Library Liz Wells has replaced Robert Tucker as librarian
- iii. Barnet libraries also no longer has anyone with specialist knowledge of music
- iv. SEMLIF minutes are now on the IAML website – the first regional group to achieve this
- v. Pat Tipler reported that the South West region was only able to hold one regional meeting per year with no support from SWRLS
- vi. New Novello Editions. GM reported that Novello were seeking to make the old and new editions more compatible by putting page numbers from the old editions on the new

3. IAML/GLASS updates

- i. No update from GLASS
- ii. IAML. FM invited feedback on a proposal from the Courses & Education Committee to hold a public music librarians day. Initially the proposal had been to hold an informal, low-key day along the lines of the academic music librarian's day which had been running for several years. A low key day would provide networking opportunities, a forum for discussion of issues relevant to public music librarians (loss of expertise, impact of external agendas for instance) as well as inviting speakers on topics of interest. However, as the Courses and Education committee had discussed the proposal there was some desire to hold a more high profile day championing the contribution that music collections can make to current government agendas. The feeling of the meeting was that there was support for the more high profile day but it was recognised that this feedback was only from a small sample of SEMLIF members.
- iii. Adrian Ure is on the conference committee organising the York ASW and is looking for content suggestions
- iv. Angela is going to the Warsaw International Conference and is organising a seminar on choral music provision

4. Parts pool

Lucy Rose proposed starting a regional "parts pool" initially on a small scale. The aim would be to supply missing parts from sets from within the SEMLIF collections. Members would email round with a list of the parts they were looking for and members would check if these could be supplied from local collections. The "parts pool" would be used as a last resort. Pat Tipler would also mention this at SWRLS.

5. Co-South survey

GM gave a summary of the report that had surveyed local authorities and users in regard to the provision of music and dramas sets and sets of librettos. Issues to address included – the provision and condition of sets, variable operating practices, catalogues and indexes, staffing and communication.

6. **Regional round-up**

Herts. Reservation charges had been reduced from £1.00 to 50p. A charge had been introduced for non-members using the internet in order to encourage membership.

Lucy was delivering some performing arts training across the county to staff doing the ACLIP qualification and also to staff with an interest in PA.

A review of the County resources Library as a whole had just been completed with positive results. There was a proposal to reduce the number of service points from 3 to 2, these would give the PA collection a better profile although it would be further from the stack.

Lucy also wanted to expand the DVD collection and move towards the automated issue of sets.

The review also proposed extending the opening hours of the CRL to include Friday evenings and possibly Sundays so that the service can act as a back-up for the county. However the service provided during these extended hours maybe a reduced service.

Libraries were now under the Children's, Schools and Families Directorate.

Surrey. PA Library was looking to increase usage by children and young people. The library has gone into co-operation with one of the music centres and will be hosting two hands-on performance workshops in the summer.

The whole county council is moving towards a new online administration system called SAP.

Charges have all been enhanced – CD weekly rental is now 70p for a single disc, reservation fee is increasing from 80p to 90p for ordinary stock and £3.00 for ILL. Charges for performing sets remain the same.

GM is also giving a lot of training to staff around the county – 4-5 sessions per year.

Kent. Staffing and services are beginning to settle down after the recent reorganisation. FM is still assessing the impact of the reorganisation on music services. A considerable amount of training has taken place to equip library assistants to deal with music enquiries and set reservation procedures.

There is less time to devote to music as a specialism as FM now has responsibility for a number of other specialist stock areas.

Hammersmith & Fulham. The library catalogue, including GLASS items, is now available online.

July 25th sees a centenary celebration with a music workshop in the form of a session for children on singing and song writing.

Charges. Under 16s can now borrow DVDs free of charge.

CD budget had now been frozen except for requests.

The two largest libraries – Hammersmith and Fulham – are going to a single enquiry desk system and self issue.

Over the whole borough management is looking to cut 2 librarians' posts and 4 assistants – but this will be achieved by natural wastage.

The two borough reserve stocks had been weeded so that the stock fits into a single location at Fulham. Music stock had been weeded out and the collection now centred on vocal and single instrumental music.

Oxfordshire. The county as a whole now had a new county librarian and chief executive.

A directorate restructuring may mean that libraries will merge with social services – the impact of this is unknown.

The county has a very supportive management team as far as music is concerned. The music services have gained an additional member of staff and the budget has been increased.

7. AOB

GM reported that half of the IAML library was now stored at Surrey PA but that it is not available for use – this constitutes about 44 small box crates – about 60m of shelving). A permanent home for the library is still required.