



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

Australia, report 2010

The major initiative of IAML Australia in the past year has been a new Communications and Publications strategy. Inspired by some vibrant young members, we are in the process moving our business from print to electronic. We have embraced a Web 2.0 strategy, online newsletter, and blogs, are shifting to an online Journal format with occasional papers, and taking an online approach to networking. This is an essential shift in a nation with a small number of geographically-dispersed members who also live far ‘down-under’ from our international colleagues. So expect to hear more from Australians in the virtual space, where we like to think we punch above our weight!

Face-to-face discussion, though, remains important. Our 2010 National Conference and Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in Brisbane on 1 and 2 September to coincide with the Australian Library and Information Association Conference. We are particularly excited that this will be the first national event for Roger Flury in his capacity as new IAML President; Roger will open our conference with an address on *The Future of Music Libraries* and will report on the Moscow conference. Our two conference themes, *Challenges for Music Libraries and Archives of the Future* and *Linking and Serving Musical Communities*, aim to develop provocative ideas, with an emphasis on the creative use of collections, technology applications and community building, both online and in national and local settings. We will be podcasting much of the conference on the IAML Australia website [www. http://iamlaustralia.yolasite.com/conference2010.php](http://iamlaustralia.yolasite.com/conference2010.php) so you will be able to access the many fascinating contributions of guest and member speakers. See the Contributing Editors’ Reports for a full report on this meeting.

In October 2009, The University of Sydney hosted our AGM and national meeting, led by outgoing President Jonathon Wood. The highlight of our forums is always the animated and stimulating sharing of ideas. A new Executive has been operational since then. President Robyn Holmes, Curator of Music at the National Library of Australia, has been assisted by three able vice-presidents each with differing responsibilities, Pauline McNee from regional Queensland, Sarah Evans at the University of Queensland (whom some of you met in Amsterdam), and Julia Mitford, now at the Australian Institute of Music in Sydney (thanks to the UK for exporting her to us!). Secretary Christine Vincent manages a community music library in Victoria and Treasurer Bligh Glass is at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. So you can see why this geographically dispersed Executive needs to function primarily online. Some members will stand down from duties at the forthcoming AGM after serving long terms. We especially thank Bligh Glass for her commitment to the Treasurer’s role during and since the International IAML conference in 2007.

Inspired by the Young Professionals Forum held at the Sydney Conference, we also introduced an ‘Under 35’ two-year free membership category to attract young staff into our professional network. While this is expensive for our small IAML chapter to maintain, this incentive aims to activate our emerging young professionals and sustain our work-force and professional



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association into the future. We would be interested in some international support for this initiative – any ideas?

Some other highlights of our year. The public perception of our work was highlighted by two remarkably successful events in 2009, broadcast on radio nationally, celebrating major collection items. Firstly, the Rimini Antiphonal manuscript at the State Library of NSW and, at the National Library, a celebration of 50 years of artistic work inspired by the Australian Noble Laureate Patrick White's 1957 novel *Voss*. This featured a retrospective of the opera created by composer Richard Meale, who died in November 2009, and librettist David Malouf. The archives of our Australian composers, performers, broadcasters, entrepreneurs and publishers continue to grow abundantly in our research libraries – creating a remarkable array of national collections of past and living musicians. We are also implementing new approaches to cataloguing and making large unprocessed collections accessible with diminishing resources. Problematic amalgamations within the University/Conservatorium sector continue to pose challenges for music libraries, most recently at the Victorian College of the Arts and The University of Melbourne (steered by Georgina Binns and Evelyn Portek). Australia was also delighted in 2009 to play host to Almut Boehme, Head of Music at the National Library of Scotland, who enlivened our perspective on Scottish music abroad.

On matters digital, two breakthrough Australian initiatives are really worth international investigation. The Australian Music Centre (<http://www.australianmusiccentre.com.au/>) launched its long-awaited new web development. This holistically integrates all the Centre's functions on the web for the user: documentation of the musical landscape, access to resources, Australian music events and publications. Additionally, there is an interface for composers to deposit and upload their data, scores and biographical information, and an e-commerce capability for users, increasingly populated with digital content. Customers from anywhere in the world can now order online and get resources digitally. Especially interesting to librarians is that this integration is wholly driven 'behind the scenes' by an FRBR data model, used not only to describe AMC resources but adapted to link musical, research and cultural documentation across formats, user access and commercial perspectives.

The National Library of Australia's new discovery service TROVE Australia ("a treasure trove") has been released (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>) and features many Web 2.0 initiatives. Trove has achieved what Google has not yet: integration of all different kinds of discovery into one single search. You can find music, audio, books, articles, pictures, digitised historic newspapers (fully text searchable), composer and performer archives, websites and biographical information all from the one search, akin to 'Music Australia' but on a vast scale across all subject areas. Trove already includes a substantial amount of Australian music content from a range of music organisations, libraries and archives and exposes holdings of overseas music in Australian libraries. In 2011, the National Library of Australia will be transitioning Music Australia fully into this service and is undertaking consultation with the music library community about these business issues at the national IAML conference.

You might especially want to search 'music' in the Historic Australian Newspapers zone of Trove, which provides a remarkable new resource to undertake Australian music research. Two



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recent examples of scholarship that would not have been possible without this service are Robyn Holmes' research on 'Chopin in Australia' for the Chopin Year and Graeme Skinner's comprehensive historiography of colonial music in Australia. Digitised historic newspaper articles are linked to fully text searchable transcriptions using OCR technology. The service also represents a remarkable success story in crowd sourcing and user engagement: more than 9000+ members of the public have corrected and tagged 12.5 million lines of OCR rendered newspaper text in 18 months.

You will be able to follow the IAML discussions about these services in the podcast of the IAML Australia conference.

IAML has also been working closely too with the Music Council of Australia, advocating the role of music libraries and archives in all sorts of key issues on the national agenda, especially music education, digital business models and community projects. Robyn Holmes represented IAML at the Music Council's national music summits held in 2009 and 2010, a refreshing series of *Musical Futures* summits concerning digital music and Classical Music in Australia.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Amsterdam and Moscow. It is hard and expensive for many Australians to attend the international conferences but one Public Librarian working in Western Australia, Linda Papa, was persuaded to attend Amsterdam by those clogs key rings handed out at the closing of the Sydney conference in 2007! She described her week in Amsterdam as "thoroughly engaging and thought-provoking" and she "met some beautiful, clever people". Linda shared with Australian members some of the "fantastic ideas and music" heard in various wonderful venues and on library tours. We look forward to a similar international report from Moscow from Roger Flury and we wish more of us could meet with you personally more often. Now at least we can share more, learn more and communicate more often online from 'down under'! So please watch our embryonic IAML Australia space grow over the next year.

Robyn Holmes

President - IAML (Australia.)