Australia, report 2013

Looking back : Annual Conference September 2012, University of Adelaide

It's not often one is given the opportunity to stand in an anechoic chamber to consider Cage's *4'33''* and the concept of absolute silence, and I'm delighted that this was one of many highlights of our 2012 national conference held at the University of Adelaide in September. Stephen Whittington hosted this experience as part of his talk on the Cage Exhibition in situ at the Barr Smith Library. 41 individuals attended this event held in partnership with PASIG (the Performing Arts Special Interest Group of Museums Australia), with 22 being IAML members. The partnership once again provided an enriched programme, and crossing into the wider performing arts areas proved particularly useful to IAML members responsible for cross disciplinary collections. It did pose some administrative challenges which will be considered when taking on future partnership events.

Rob Brookman, CEO of the State Theatre Company of South Australia gave the keynote address as a love letter to archivists entitled "Catching Lightning in a Bucket", encapsulating the role of archivists as "the keepers of memory". Julja Szuster, Visiting Research Fellow at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, discussed the 'Virtual Problems in 21st-Century Music Research' focussing on the use of open access journals. Two online resources demonstrated the continuing vision to provide access to information here in Australia. Jenny Fewster showcased the valuable AusStage online resource ([www.ausstage.edu.au (link is external)](www.ausstage.edu.au)), an archive of live performance in Australia, and Peter Grimshaw demonstrated Zinfonia ([www.zinfonia.com (link is external)](www.zinfonia.com)), his centralised system for locating and connecting to music for hire and purchase. Evelyn Portek and Georgina Binns demonstrated how they've used the open source streaming service Subsonic to provide digital access to listening materials for students at Melbourne University.

We welcomed Damien Lodge from Charles Sturt University's School of Information Studies, who joined us for a working lunch to discuss formal education for music librarians and the potential of developing a music librarianship elective as part of an existing distance learning postgraduate course. At the following AGM members agreed to begin by exploring a training offer similar to the UK's *Music for the Terrified* at the 2013 conference.

Looking ahead : Annual Conference, 3-4 October 2013, University of Western Australia, Perth

The aforementioned training will be one of the key focuses of our 2013 conference and there will also be a session focussing on the music aspects of RDA. Our hope is that these sessions in particular will attract colleagues from public libraries, which represent a gap in our membership. The National Library of Australia will be showcasing their new music archives app *Forte* which was created as a result of a 2011 LibraryHack competition by developer [Jake MacMullin (link is external)](#) using open data. You can view a video of some of the features of the app at

http://youtu.be/uD2lYC4D-ik (link is external). The event will also put Western Australia into the spotlight with eyes in particular on the development of the online Western Australian New Music Archive (WANMA).

Membership & member updates

Australian membership in 2013 stands at 37 personal members and 24 institutional members and our executive remains relatively unchanged from 2012 The President is Julia Mitford (Australian Institute of Music), the Vice-Presidents are Denise Tobin (Elder Music Library, University of Adelaide) and Allison Fife, with Allison making a welcome addition to this year's team, the Secretary is Sarah Evans (University of Queensland) and the Treasurer is Erin Gallant (Australian National University). Our members continue to develop new projects and are continuously finding ways to meet user needs, often in the face of budgets cuts and large scale reorganisation as is the case with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Tasmania Conservatorium of Music, and the Australian Music Centre. The AMC are now delivering over 7,000 scores (around half of their print collection), via their unique digital loan service; 1,700 MP3 files for sale as digital downloads, and they receive almost 1,000 hits per day on their website. Despite their continuous innovation in online services and representation of 600 composers, they have lost a significant amount of public funding, and, in addition to losing a large number of staff, were sadly forced to close their physical library space in recent months with most of the collection now in off-site storage.

As part of the closure the National Library of Australia took on a large collection of journals, unpublished scores, music which made up part of Albert's Hire Library (by composers Colin Brumby, Nigel Butterley, Ian Cugley, Ross Edwards, Helen Gifford, Alfred and Mirrie Hill, Paul Paviour, Margaret Sutherland and Felix Werder). More on the closures can be read on ArtsHub http://au.artshub.com/au/news-article/news/performing-arts/shelves-empty-at-australian-music-centre-195108 (link is external).

Other additions to the National Library of Australia have included : a large collection of music formerly belonging to Keith Watson obtained in early 2012 yielding a number of interesting pieces, including a copy of Amicus' patriotic song "Are we fainthearted? No! (link is external)" Amicus was Peter Dodds McCormic and the song was published in 1916, featuring a wonderfully illustrated cover and not held by any other Australian library. NLA also acquired works composed by Franz Schiller for the Centennial International Exhibition held in Melbourne during 1888-1889, manuscripts of Miriam Hyde's "Lengthening shadows (link is external)" composed in 1974, a rare edition of the "God defend New Zealand (link is external)" by John Joseph Woods (link is external) published between 1878 and 1879 (the work functions as New Zealand's national anthem along with "God Save the Queen"); and materials from a number of interesting musical Australians including Arnold Matters (baritone and former lecturer at the Elder Conservatorium of Music), Roger Smalley (pianist, composer and conductor), and Eric Gross (composer and pianist).

Moving on to our State Libraries and we can report brighter news at the State Library of New South Wales who underwent a $4.2 million revitalisation project which completed in July 2012, producing an open and welcoming space including a new cafe and book shop, free internet computers, and more public spaces for people to meet and relax. There is also a further commitment from the NSW Government of $32.6 million to the Library over the next four years to support a major digitisation program and to upgrade its digital infrastructure. In Western Australia we are disappointed to note that the State Library have not replaced Allison Fyfe following her resignation as Subject Specialist in 2012 following 27 years in service. We are concerned that uncertainty remains regarding the ongoing maintenance and development of the music collections. The State Library of Victoria are publishing an informative blog http://arts.blogs.slv.vic.gov.au (link is external) to promote and update patrons on their collections. Donations at SLV have included several bequests of vinyl, tape, cylinder & 78 rpm format recordings. Of particular note: from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation a large collection of popular 1960s – 1980s vinyls and Melbourne's 3L0 Radio Station's 78's, providing a remarkable snapshot of music listening in Victoria in the 20th Century; and a collection of research material on the life and career of Australian Songwriter Jack O'Hagan. A common theme for many of our state, public and academic librarians is wading through large quantities of donated materials and the SLV are one of many now using trained volunteers to catalogue materials.

Our University libraries are continuing to move to digital access wherever possible. The Architecture and Music library at the University of Queensland is endeavouring to transfer all off-air broadcasts on VHS tape to DVD and to offer streamed access to all off-air broadcasts on DVD. The Monash University Research Repository team, part of the University's library service, worked with Professor Margaret Kartomi and research assistant, Bronia Kornhauser, to provide online access to audiovisual examples to complement Margaret's new book, *Musical Journeys in Sumatra* (2012). Information regarding the book and access to the audio examples can be found at http://profiles.arts.monash.edu.au/margaret-kartomi/new-book-musical-journeys-in-sumatra/ (link is external).

Administration

Within IAML Australia's administration, the start of 2013 saw the soft launch of our much-awaited new website at www.iamlaustralia.org.au (link is external) . The tender process was extremely challenging as we discovered our design preferences, specifications, and budget did not match, and we were advised to consider using a designer who worked with the open source software Joomla. Realize Design had worked with not-for-profit organisations previously so were aware of the importance of staying within budget and could help us refine our specification to get the best value for money. It took 6 months to complete the initial stage of the project and there is still work to be done to complete the member area. The challenge of keeping the website up to date and informative continues. The website will eventually feature a 'knowledgebase' of key articles relevant to our members as well as offering a centralised source of information about music libraries and collections across the Australia. The project also provided us with multiple email addresses (president@, treasurer@. etc) allowing members of the executive to better manage correspondence and to ensure as organisation we are better able to archive our materials

effectively. We continue to use successfully Dropbox to manage and share our organisational documents.

We've found our venture into social media interesting with our Facebook page reaching a mere 53 likes and our Twitter profile having a little more success with 108 followers. The fact that Twitter can automatically update our Facebook page allows us to retain a Facebook presence despite low use. Twitter seems to be a useful venture in creating awareness of our organisation nationally and internationally which has been lacking in the past, however we are concerned that neither provide a way to engage with current members or encourage direct new memberships, so we have more work to do to find the best solution to these two key issues.

Julia Mitford
President, IAML (Australia)