



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)

## Japan, report 2008

The first announcement is about the results of the election of Japanese officers, held at the end of May this year. The results are as follows: the new president is Masakata KANAZAWA, who served as director of the IMS and also the president of the Musicological Society of Japan until 2007. The vice president is Yasuko TODO. She has been a vice-chair of the Music Teaching Institution Libraries Branch of IAML when she worked at the library of Toho-Gakuen School of Music. Now she works as a music bibliographical researcher and documentalist.

The secretary is Hitoshi MATSUSHITA, who served for many years as the general secretary of the Music Library Association of Japan. He was also the chief librarian of Kunitachi College of Music and now teaches at Teikyo University as professor of library science. The treasurer is Yoshiko MORI, a musicologist who is participating in the IAML conference for the first time.

There are five other officers. Mari ITO, whom I believe many of you know well, will continue to work as the webmaster. Also, Shinya KATO, the librarian of Tohoku University in Sendai; Toshiko SEKINE, the general secretary of RILM Japan, and Eizaburo TSUCHIDA, the director of the library at The Tokyo University of The Arts. They will work together to plan the regular meetings ; seminars or symposiums. Rieko SUENAGA, a librarian at the Documentation Centre for Modern Japanese Music, works as the editor in chief of the IAML Japan Newsletter.

After the Sydney congress, we had a one-day joint symposium titled *Concerning Music Documents and Information in Japan*, in November 2007, cosponsored by the Music Library Association of Japan, The Musicological Society of Japan, and IAML Japan in Tokyo. It turned out to be an unprecedentedly big event with about ninety participants. It was chaired by Shuji LIN, chief librarian of the Documentation Centre for Modern Japanese Music, who led the symposium project perfectly. The panelists included Nobuhiro OGURA, a senior specialist for the Arts at The Agency for Cultural Affairs under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan. Also, Seiji CHOKI, a professor of the University of Tokyo, Junko MATSUURA, the chief librarian of Kunitachi College of Music, Naoko OSACHI, a librarian at the National Diet Library and Masakata Kanazawa, professor emeritus of International Christian University. The commentator was Akemi TSUKADA, a research staff member who belongs to the Arts and Cultural Projects in The NLI Research Institute. The NLI Research Institute has been commissioned to study the topic titled, "Music Information: the Preservation of Music Documents and its Application" by The Agency for Cultural Affairs. This study began in the spring of 2005 and was finalized with a report in the summer of 2007. At the symposium the discussion was conducted based on this study report. Some music libraries and IAML members, including the British Library, Royal College of Music, Library of Congress, Juilliard School of Music, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, IRCAM, and Bayerische Staats Bibliothek also cooperated for the second year 2006 study report. To the IAML libraries and music librarians, we would like to express our deep gratitude for this. You have given us, and especially our government, important and concrete suggestions that we hope will impact essential policies and the fundamental maintenance of our music and cultural foundation.



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At this joint symposium we discussed many problems, especially regarding information on contemporary music manuscripts, traditional Japanese music legacy, legal deposit, and these digital databases or portal sites, which are all still in a limited environment. These problems question not only financial issues, but also archiving and applications concerning the preservation of music as a performing art. We have unanimously recognized the need to continue these discussions with composers, researchers, librarians, documentalists, archivists and the government.

The Music Library Association of Japan (MLAJ) will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 and MLAJ has begun to plan the celebration. Meanwhile, each music library has had serious problems with their working environment. This has included maintaining librarianship training. Also, librarian job status during institutional restructuring within schools, universities, and their foundations, as well as maintaining their network. We need to encourage policies that offer librarians confidence and identity as a music librarian in Japan.

Our IAML Japan branch is comprised not only of individual librarians and music libraries that are almost double members of MLAJ but also many musicologists. For many years we have been hoping that Japanese databases or portal sites offer resources and information about European music and Japanese contemporary, traditional, and even ethno-music. Establishing a system to digitalize music information is our most important challenge for the future. We hope it will close the gap between the generation, music professionals and music genre as a whole.

Finally I should announce that Mr. Takashi OGAWA was passed away in 14<sup>th</sup> of last April, 96 years old who was a pioneer of music librarian in Japan. In 1940s he tried to translate into Japanese the music catalogue in Anglo -American Cataloging Rules under the bombing of Second World War. And he had begun to learn with our generation the music classification in 1966. This was the cradle of MLAJ. Also, He also edited many catalogues of music literature in Japan and the performing documents of orchestra in Japan.

Further I would now like to present a young and spirited Japanese musicologist, our branch member, Mr. Takashi YAMADA who is helping us at this conference with Italian colleagues. Mr. Yamada also will present his research on the Italian composer, Domenico Cimarosa, a native Neapolitan.

*Yasuko TODO*  
*IAML (Japan)*