



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)

Nigeria, report 2011

It is with a deep sense of commitment to our dear Association that I write to congratulate all the participants to this year's conference in Dublin, Ireland. Although I am not happy that I could not attend the conference due to lack of funds, I sincerely wish all the participants and the Association well. I have no doubt you will have very fruitful and rewarding deliberations.

On that note, I would like to implore you all not to forget that music research, education, archiving and documentation in Africa and in Nigeria in particular need very critical support from everyone. Just as I have not been able to attend this conference, many other Africans lack the institutional support or personal funds to achieve their dreams in the discipline of music. International conference attendance is almost an issue of miraculous achievement, and it is a similar story in many African countries. In Nigeria, one almost accepts that things may never change for the music discipline. We truly need help to develop music studies, research and documentation. The opportunity to attend two IAML conferences through Outreach funding was the best that one could recall and possibly hope for. I understand, however, the current economic situation of many other countries, including some in Europe; one appreciates the commitment by colleagues to keep the Association alive with very little resources and I commend you for this special commitment.

Funding for research, archiving and documentation of music is still marginalised in Nigeria owing to a lack of interest and, to some extent, ignorance on the part of our policy makers and people in authority. There is, however, a ray of hope. The current President of Nigeria promised in his campaign manifesto to have music studied in all institutions of learning in Nigeria as is done in most developed countries of the world. As in all campaign promises, however, one cannot celebrate anything until it is implemented. As always, we keep our fingers crossed. Now that he is returned to power, one prays that he remembers the content of his manifesto. While we wait for what may be the outcome, I will still call on people from relatively rich countries to assist us with anything they may not need but are still useful for music education. Such items as books, CDs, old musical instruments, instrumental tutors, journals, etc. would be highly appreciated if given to us. I wish you all the best and safe trips back to your various countries.

This message was read in Dublin by Ruth Hellen, who reported that Christian Onyeji had recently been promoted to the rank of Professor, the first at his university. He is glad that he can now attend the University Senate, and hopes to assist his colleagues in their own development.

Any donations may be sent to:

Dr [Christian Onyeji \(link sends e-mail\)](#)

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