



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)

United Kingdom & Ireland, report 2010

Last year our membership rose on the previous year, and this year we are delighted that this increase has almost been maintained. Music librarians in the UK are evidently as committed as ever to their profession and the services they provide. As a result the UK branch has an inspiring list of achievements to report. One particularly successful new initiative we launched this year was our Excellence Award scheme, which recognised high levels of service, innovation, and development, and was open to libraries of all sizes from all sectors. The nominations were adjudicated by an independent, expert panel, including Martie Severt, our own President, and we were delighted that 12 awards were made. These can be seen on our website (http://www.iaml.info/iaml-uk-irl/awards/citations_2010.html). The panel was chaired by Professor John Tyrell, the well-known *Janáček* scholar, with a celebratory presentation ceremony at our Annual Study Weekend in Nottingham in May.

In addition the Annual Study Weekend had its usual impressive mix of presentations and seminars on important and topical issues. This year we covered the provision of audio-visual materials in libraries, inter-library loan, and heard of the *Music Pathways to Learning* scheme in Ireland, which aims to facilitate access to music information and materials across a broad range of 27 libraries and archives of all types. We also had technical sessions on the latest developments in music information retrieval and faceted browsing. These issues are all the more important as more and more catalogues join up, raising issues of conflicting standards, data quality and user education, points which were all to the fore when we had a brainstorming discussion on the feasibility of a national music catalogue in the UK.

Other projects within the branch continue to prove their importance to our daily work. Cecilia, our online database of music collections in UK and Irish libraries, archives and museums, is visited about 25,000 times per month, while the Concert Programmes Project's usage statistics are equally healthy, with visitors coming worldwide from 139 countries. This latter project was initiated by a scoping study by the Music Libraries Trust, the charitable arm of the branch, which has just commissioned a similar study of musicians' letters held in institutions in the UK and Ireland. Meanwhile, Encore!, our union catalogue of performance sets, is maintained and updated regularly, and is currently addressing the issue of conversion of its data into MARC21.

The branch has a number of committees, which are all very active and doing essential work. Our Courses and Education Committee, for example, organises a lively programme of presentations, seminars and study days for library schools, music librarians and other professionals for whom music is not their main responsibility. A new initiative this year has been sessions on music cataloguing, held at University College, London. And this year the committee's work has had an international flavour, when colleagues from Hungary visited and learnt about our educational programme, and we arranged a return trip to Budapest and Eger; in addition we ran a highly successful and well attended version of our course on *Virtuoso Skills for Music Enquiries* in Gothenburg, Sweden. Meanwhile, copyright continues to keep our Trade and Copyright Committee busy, taking part in discussions with other library bodies and government departments on licensing issues related to accessing music via the web on public PCs in libraries.



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And of course we have been doing much planning for next year's annual conference, which takes place in Dublin between 24 and 29 July 2011. Arrangements are well in hand.

Everything we have achieved this year has been superbly overseen and managed by our President, Liz Hart, who stepped down in April, to whom we would like to record our warmest admiration and thanks.

Membership (December 2009): 237, of which 117 were institutional (61 national, 56 international) and 120 personal (73 national, 47 international)

Publications: *Brio*, ed. Rupert Ridgewell (-2010), Katharine Hogg (2010-); *Newsletter*, ed. Alison Hall (-2010), Anna Pensaert (2010-) (both two issues p.a.); Website: www.iaml-uk-irl.org; webmaster Antony Gordon; Excellence Award for Music Libraries: www.iaml-uk-irl.org/awards.html.

Richard Chesser
President, IAML (UK and Ireland)