

United States

Submitted by Bruce J Evans – President

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- Assistant Planning Officer – Andrea Beckendorf – Luther College
- Student/Early Career Representative – Thi Lettner – University of Maryland, College Park

Board meetings held during the year

- Fall Meeting, Detroit, Michigan, October 23-24, 2024
- Winter Meeting, Virtual, February 24, 27, 28, March 3, 5, 2025
- Spring Meeting, University of Minnesota, May 18-20, 2025
- Monthly Virtual Meetings
- July 9, 2024
- August 5, 2024
- September 9, 2024
- October 7, 2024
- November 4, 2024
- December 2, 2024
- January 6, 2025
- February 3, 2025
- April 10, 2025
- May 1, 2025
- June 5, 2025

Annual branch meetings

MLA held a virtual meeting March 17-21, 2025. Committees and Interest Groups held virtual meetings March 11, 24-28, 2025. Attendance: 459 individual virtual attendees, 15 institutional streaming (5-10 seats per institution), 4 vendors.

Branch membership figures

IAML-US (CY25 as of May 4, 2025). Total: 100 members (decrease of 09 members)

- Individual 52, decrease
- Institutional 48, stable

MLA (FY25 as of May 4, 2025). Total: 705 (decrease of 61 members)

- Regular 310, decrease
- Sustaining 34, decrease
- Student 57, decrease
- Early Career 64, decrease
- Paraprofessional 32, decrease
- Retired 46, decrease
- Financial Hardship (formerly: Emergency Circumstances) 10, decrease
- Corporate Patrons 3, decrease
- Corporate Members 2, decrease
- Institutional 147, decrease

Deaths of notable members

Michael J. Fling

Michael graduated from Baylor University in 1962 with a degree in music and earned a master's in Musicology from the University of Iowa in 1964. It was after receiving his master's in library science in 1975 that he became a reference librarian in the IU Music Library in Bloomington, which included collection development responsibilities. In 1987 his job duties began to be focused entirely on collection development. Over the next several years he also became the deputy head of the music library and served as interim head twice.

He was known as the preeminent authority of music collection development in the United States, and literally wrote the book on it: *Library Acquisition of Music*, published in 2004. Other notable publications include *Musical Memorials for Musicians* (2001); and *Shelving Capacity in the Music Library* (published in 1981 and still cited today)."

Michael's service to the Music Library Association was extensive. He was the editor of the *Index and Bibliography Series* and the *Technical Reports*, and he also edited *A Basic Music Library: Essential Scores and Books*, second edition (1983). He served on the Publications, Publications Awards, and Preservation committees. In addition to MLA, he served on the editorial board of *Music Reference Services Quarterly*.

Branch activities

MLA held a virtual meeting March 17-21, 2025

Plenary Sessions:

"Music Libraries and Community Music Making: Spaces, Collections, and Strategies"

"Outreach to the Vinyl-Curious"

Other topics included:

AI: more specific topics included its use in teaching, metadata creation, public services, copyright, and other matters connected to library work.

Research: Topics included research on difficulties in searching by instrumentation in discovery systems, the need for new information skills by music students and instructors alike, and preservation of historical information for performing arts organizations.

Diversity/Underrepresented groups in music and music librarianship: Many presentations that dealt with highlighting the music of underrepresented groups, making collections more diverse and reach beyond

the typical Western Art Music canon, music librarianship at HBCUs, and miscellaneous diversity considerations for our collections and profession.

Copyright: As shown earlier, copyright-focused presentations were strongly focused on AI considerations.

Assaults on the values of our profession, the academy, and free expression: This was most directly addressed through a session entitled Inclusion and Belonging In Music Libraries: A Call to Action. The focus was on state laws that have increased censorship curtailed freedom of expression – especially concerning DEI initiatives – amongst our colleagues and their workplaces. The desired outcome was to brainstorm ways to advocate for our colleagues in those environments.

On-line events:

All of our committee and interest group business meetings have been online since the pandemic began, whether or not the main conference meets in person.

Branch publications

- Journal: NOTES: The Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association (available by subscription, online and in print).
- Music Cataloging Bulletin (available by subscription, online only)
- MLA publishes three monographic series: Basic Manual Series, Index and Bibliography Series, and Technical Reports and Monographs in Music Librarianship. No new titles were published this year.

Branch website

<https://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/>

Link to Branch annual report

<https://wp.musiclibraryassoc.org/annual-reports-2024/>

Social media activity

- X (@musiclibassoc) [formerly Twitter]
- Facebook (@Music.Library.Association)
- Vimeo (musiclibraryassoc)

Branch scholarships, grants, bursaries, awards

- MLA Diversity Scholarship: Alex Martinez and Divya Ramesh
- Kevin Freeman Travel Grant: no award given
- Paraprofessional/Public Librarian Travel Grant: no award given
- Lenore F. Coral IAML Travel Grant: no award given
- Walter Gerboth Award: Houman Behzadi
- Carol June Bradley Award: Jennifer Ward
- Dena Epstein Award: Scott Gleason and Kelsey Klotz
- Vincent H. Duckles Award: Randy Jones
- Richard S. Hill Award: Stephanie Akau, Janet McKinney, and Rachel McNellis
- Eva Judd O'Meara Award: James Buhler
- MLA Citation: Pauline Shaw Bayne
- Ralph Papakhian Award: Susannah Cleveland, Liza Vick, Karen McCool, and Kerry Masteller

Advocacy and Recruitment

- MLA joined peer organizations endorsing a statement protesting cuts to funding for the Institute of Museums and Library Services.
- MLA joined peer organizations endorsing a statement requesting Grove Online use Ukrainian orthography for Ukrainian names rather than Russian.

- MLA joined other IAML national branches in lobbying UNESCO to establish an International Day for Music Libraries and Archives. Unfortunately, the UNESCO-US Commission was unable to move the request forward.

National copyright issues

MLA and MOLA signed a statement that was sent to the US Copyright Office. The statement's goal is to highlight the challenges facing educational and cultural institutions as we see an increase in Performing Rights Organizations (PRO) and the ways that it will inevitably impact academic freedom and artistic choice.

RILM and RISM contributions

MLA participates as a member of the RILM/US Governing Board and the MLA/AMS Joint Committee on RISM. MLA also contributes annual subventions to RILM and RISM

Fontes Artis Musicae

- James P. Cassaro, editor-in-chief
- Paul Allen Sommerfield, assistant editor
- Sandi-Jo Malmon, book review editor
- Stephanie Bonjack, advertising manager
- Michael Colby, IAML-US corresponding editor
- Paul Allen Sommerfield (7½)
- Benjamin Barba (7½)
- Michael Jones, Robert Rich, Jacob Schaub, Holling Smith-Borne (71/3)
- Kevin Madill (7¼)