



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)

Australia, report 2006

This year we have excelled ourselves, having four delegates here in Sweden.

We have probably been the second most frantically busy of the IAML national branches during the past year. As we are the host for the next conference in 2007, I would think that possibly only Sweden had a busier year than we have just had. Most of our activity during the past year has been connected with conference planning. Early in the year we decided that it would be much too financially risky to employ a professional conference planner, and that we would plan and run the conference ourselves.

Currently IAML Australian Branch has 62 members. But I can assure you, that although this sounds like a smallish number, the attractiveness of next year's conference will prove itself to be in inverse ratio to the size of the national branch.

Publications

The IAML (Australia) web page continues to be regularly updated. We now have our conference webpage up, which will be frequently updated with more and more additions as we approach the conference next year. You will see our conference logo up on our conference website.

During the year the 2005 issue (Vol 34) of the journal *Continuo* was published. It contains several very interesting papers, and interesting reviews of Australian music books.

The Branch also published four issues of its newsletter, *Intermezzo*, during the year.

I'd like to briefly mention a couple of developments you might be interested in:

LibrariesAustralia was launched in February 2006. This service enables anyone with an Internet connection to select from more than 40 million items held in over 800 libraries across the nation. LibrariesAustralia makes it easy to search for all types of information in all types of formats across the collections of the national, state and university libraries, and most public, research, government, health and other special libraries. It uses a very simple search mechanism to find the item the person requires. Once found the item can be borrowed, copied or purchased. All this can be done from home. It puts the individual looking for information in charge of their search, rather than the librarian. This saves time, and is empowering for the information seeker. Information seekers can instantly access many digitized items, borrow from a local library or order from another library, copy selections of items at a small price, buy from online bookshops, and find library locations nationwide.

The Ballet Russes Project: This project celebrates the vision and legacy of three legendary ballet companies that toured Australia between 1936 and 1940. These companies, under the artistic leadership of Colonel de Basil could trace their lineage back to Diaghilev's Ballet Russe, a



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company that took Paris by storm in 1909 with the best of Russian ballet, music and design and that continued to lead the world in theatrical innovation until 1929.

The De Basil companies that came to Australia were inheritors of much of the Diaghilev repertoire and also engaged in innovative commissions of their own. They brought to Australia a panorama of dance, music and design on a scale not seen here before. They significantly influenced the development of the arts in Australia, and had a long lasting impact on Australian society and culture.

The Ballet Russes project is a collaborative project between The Australian Ballet, the University of Adelaide, and the National Library of Australia. The project will bring together outstanding creators across disciplines and will delve into the environment that gave rise to the Diaghilev phenomenon and saw its legacy take hold in Australia. It will have performance, research and documentation outcomes, highlighting a rarely recognized conjunction between the performing arts and scholarship.

The Australian Ballet will celebrate the legacy of the Ballets Russes period with performances, including recreations and new commissions in the spirit of the Ballets Russes; the University of Adelaide will lead an academic research program into the social and cultural history of the tours; and the National Library will use its extensive collections and its subject and technological expertise to support and contribute to both the research program and the performance schedule.

The project will culminate in a celebration of the centenary of Diaghilev's first Paris season in 1909.

In conclusion I just need to make a couple of comments. I would appreciate hearing from anyone or any company wishing to exhibit at the Sydney Conference, ie to have an exhibition area allocated to them for the Sydney conference. Also I would like to hear from anyone who wishes to negotiate a sponsorship package of any type for the Sydney Conference or with anyone who wishes to fund any aspect of the Sydney conference. I would also like to speak with anyone who would like to put an advertisement in either the pre conference brochure due out at the end of this year, or the Conference Program.

Laurel Dingle