

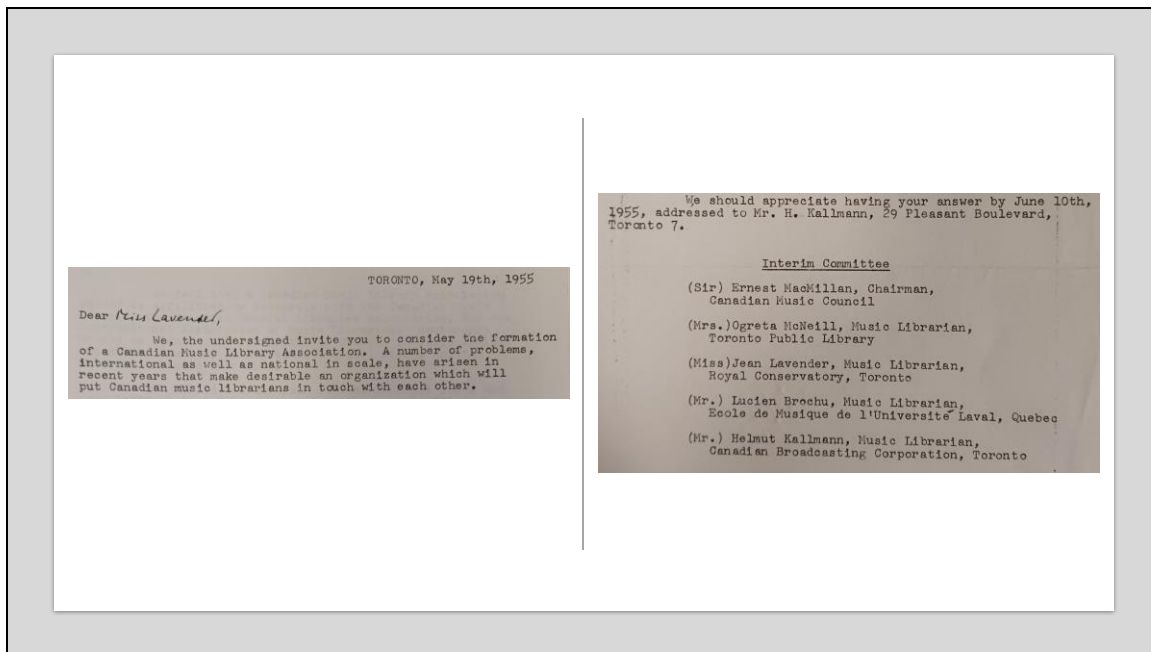
The Archives of the Canadian Branch (CAML)

Janneka Guise, University of Toronto
IAML Congress, Cambridge University UK
4 August 2023

Thank you and good afternoon everyone. Guten Tag! Bonjour!

Starting July 1st of this year I am taking a 1 year research leave to research and write the history of the Canadian branch. We are the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centres, and we call ourselves "CAMEL." I am using the CAML archives which reside at our national library, as well as informal conversations with former CAML Board members to fill in gaps.

In this presentation I will share some of our history and the materials I have found most interesting so far. I will also tell you about the CAML archives and how one can access them. At the end you may ask questions or tell me about the archive of your own national branch.



[read aloud]

Dear Miss Lavender,

We, the undersigned invite you to consider the formation of a Canadian Music Library Association. A number of problems, international as well as national in scale, have arisen in recent years that make desirable an organization which will put Canadian music librarians in touch with each other.

So begins a petition, co-written by the Interim Committee on the right of your screen, to librarians and stakeholders across the country, dated 19th of May 1955. The letter is one and a half pages, and details some of the projects that such an association might undertake. For example, surveying Canadian music libraries to discover their holdings, special collections, and deficiencies. An inventory of musical Canadiana was also seen as a great need, as was a periodical newsletter for the exchange of information on such topics as the setting up of record collections or the methods of ordering and importing music.

The petition received 74 signatures representing 9 of Canada's 10 provinces.

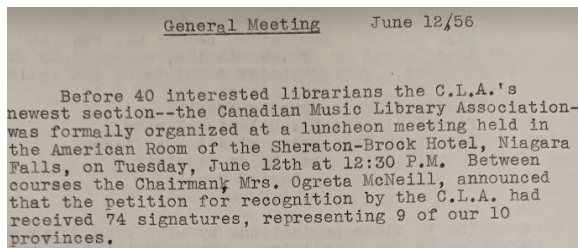
Early years 1956-1971

Canadian Music Library Association, a division of Canadian Library Association

On the 12th of June 1956 at the Canadian Library Association conference in Niagara Falls, the CLA's newest section, the Canadian Music Library Association, or CMLA, was formally organized.

CMLA 1957-71

- June 1956, Niagara Falls – CMLA, a section of CLA
- [Ogreta McNeill](#), 1st chairman
- Started with 35 members, peaked at 107 members (1969)
- Annual business meetings @ CLA
- Several bibliography & cataloguing projects
- June 1971, Vancouver – CMLA dissolved, CAML formed
- Marjorie Hale, 1st President



Mrs. Ogreta McNeill, then head of the Toronto Public Library's music library, had been instrumental in organizing the petition, and was the section's first chairman. Mrs. McNeill is now seen as Canada's first music librarian, and I have included a link to an article about her from the June 2022 issue of CAML Review.

The CMLA started with 35 members and went up to a maximum of 107 members in 1969 (institutional as well as personal members). The section held annual business meetings at the CLA conference, and some years held regional workshops in the Fall or Spring.

In June 1971 at the CLA conference in Vancouver, CMLA was dissolved and CAML was born.



CMLA publications

- Standards for Music Collections in Public Libraries (1959)
- Union List of Music Periodicals in Canadian Libraries (1964, 1967)
- Subject Index to Musical Canadiana
- Selected List of Music Reference Materials

In keeping with its mission, the section took on several major projects such as a Union List of Music Periodicals in Canadian Libraries, a list of recommended Music Reference Materials, a Subject List of Musical Canadiana, and a guidelines document called Standards for Music Collections. All publications were offered for sale through the CLA office, with profits split between CLA and CMLA.

Transition 1970-1975

Becoming the Canadian branch of IAML: Canadian Association of Music Libraries (CAML)

I would have thought that there would be pages of documentation leading up to such a huge decision: the dissolution of CMLA and the formation of CAML in 1971. However, I have not found this so far.

- 14 Nov 1970, Minutes of Executive meeting, home of Lynne Jarman (Ottawa)

(i) C. M. L. A.'s Future

C. M. L. A. is a section of CLA. There are other possibilities for C. M. L. A.'s existence: as a subsection of C. A. S. L. I. S., as a subsection of MLA, as a subsection of _____.

Low membership and the restructuring of CLA are forcing C. M. L. A. to re-examine its structure.

Bill Rolf has agreed to chair a Committee on the Possibilities of C. M. L. A.'s Existence. The Committee is to work over the next two to three months and to present a report on its findings at the annual meeting.

This short blurb from late 1970 mentions "low membership" and "the restructuring of CLA." But membership was at an all-time high in 1969 at 107 members, and I have not dived into CLA's history yet to learn more about this restructuring. Other than periodic grumbling about the difficulties of working within the Canadian Library Association, I have found very little to suggest up to this point that CMLA was seriously considering a change.

As you can see on this slide, a member named Bill Rolph was charged with chairing a Committee on the future of CMLA. The Committee sent a survey to all the members with four options for the future, and made a report at the next annual meeting, which was June 1971.

Results of CMLA QUESTIONNAIRE, reported by Bill Rolph, Chairman,
Ad Hoc Committee to consider the future of CMLA.

In early May of this year a questionnaire was sent out to personal members, asking them to consider the future place of CMLA within/outside CLA, and CMLA's aims and objectives. Of the 61 personal members polled, 24 responded, slightly over one-third. The results are as follows.

The first question concerned whether CMLA should remain in CLA, and if so, what should its status be, or whether CMLA should leave CLA, and seek alternatives. Four options were given: (a) to become a subsection of CASLIS; (b) to become a chapter of MLA; (c) separate from CLA and go it alone; (d) become the national branch of IAML. Twenty chose to become the national branch of IAML; two chose the CASLIS option; two presented a fifth option - affiliation with CLA. This latter option, however, was implicit in any course of action taken if CMLA left CLA.

Rolph, B. (1971). [Results of CMLA questionnaire](#). *CAML Review / Revue De l'ACBM*. August: 3.

Here is an extract from Mr. Rolph's report at the next annual meeting, from June 1971. "Of the 61 personal members polled, 24 responded." The four options were: "a) to become a subsection of CASLIS (Can Assn of Schools of Library and Information Science), b) to become a chapter of MLA (the American Music Library Association), c) to separate from CLA and go it alone, and d) become the national branch of IAML. , one of which was to leave CLA and become a national branch of IAML. Twenty out of the 24 respondents chose to become the national branch of IAML.

This may seem very certain. After giving this report, Mr. Rolph put forward the motion to leave CLA and join IAML. There were 15 members at this annual meeting, and it passed 7 votes to 4, with two abstentions. A close call!

IAML Bylaws, 1975

Article VI

National Branches

Any country, whatever the number or category of its members may be, can form a national branch of the IAML by uniting all of its members. The essential goal of these national branches is to accomplish within a national framework all the tasks which the Association undertakes on an international plane and to give full collaboration in all of the fields which the Association deems necessary. These branches form and govern themselves. In the country where they are officially constituted, they have the responsibility of designating the official national representative of this country on the Council.

Heckmann, Harald. "GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Monday 19. 8. 1974, 16 h. 30, Maisonde France." *Fontes Artis Musicae* 22, no. 1/2 (1975): 26.

What did it take to become a national branch of IAML in those days? According to the IAML bylaws from 1975, any country with any number of members could form a national branch by "uniting all of its members."

Becoming CAML (1971)

- notify IAML of intention of becoming a national branch
- obtain "letters patent of incorporation" from Canadian government Department of Consumer & Corporate Affairs (CAD 150)
- Hire a lawyer to prepare the application (CAD 200)
- Write new constitution and bylaws (to accompany application)
- Organize and elect new Board
- Transfer treasury from CLA
- Establish permanent address for the association (National Library)
- [CAML Newsletter > CAML Review journal](#) (open digital archive 1971-)
- By 1972: 47 members (14 institutional, 33 personal)

Although IAML had very few requirements, it was a lot of work to become CAML and the new Board must have had a steep learning curve. Registering the association with the Canadian government took time and money: the application required a new constitution and bylaws and a lawyer. The Canadian Library Association transferred the remaining balance from CMLA to CAML, but the new treasurer had to learn how to manage the money since the CLA had handled that in the past. It cost 350 Canadian dollars, which in today's currency would be approximately 2,400 Canadian dollars.

The intention was that all members of CAML would be de-facto members of IAML so there was also a lot of time devoted to recruiting and retaining members and educating them about IAML. After one year there were 33 personal members and 14 institutional members (1972)

They already had a newsletter, and wanted to establish a journal. I have included a link on the screen to our open access archive of the newsletter which became the CAML Review journal in 2000.

Notes announcement

Vol. 29 issue 2 (December 1972): 230-231

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC LIBRARIES: A Canadian branch of the International Association of Music Libraries was set up during the past year. It replaces the old Canadian Library Association. The new association is called the Canadian Association of Music Libraries/Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques Musicales. Membership presently stands at fifty; while most areas of musical activity across

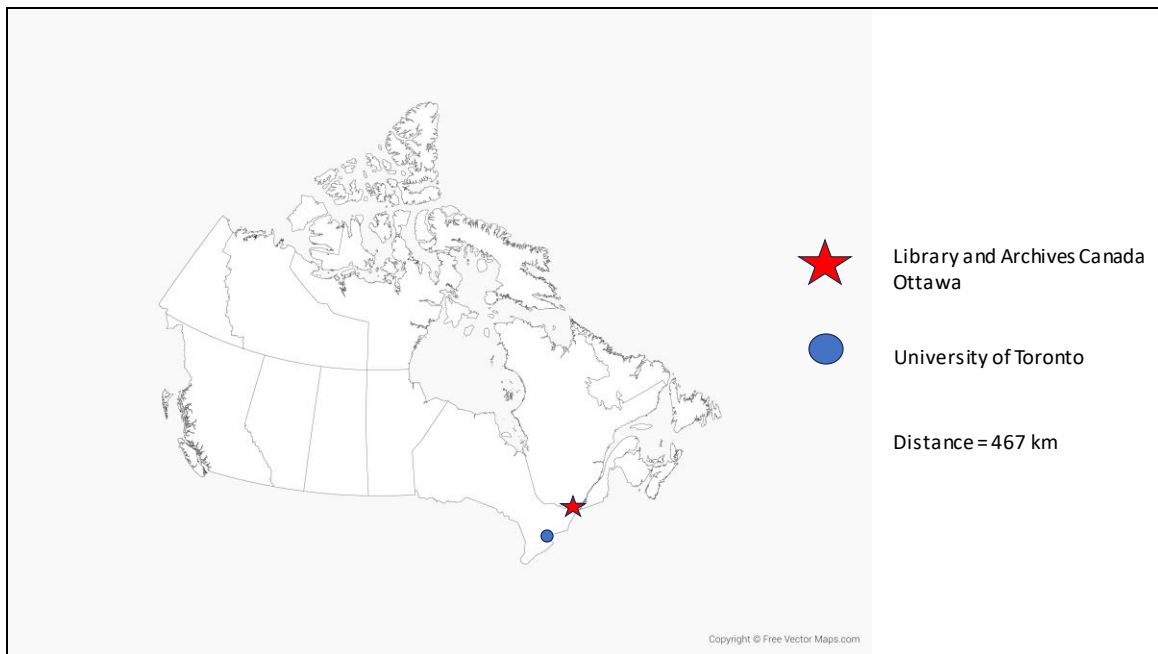
Canada are represented, a large number of music librarians and libraries have yet to join the new association. The annual meeting was held during CLA's convention in June in Regina, Saskatchewan. Three workshops were held. The first newsletter of the new association was distributed in the spring. CAML/ACBM is also continuing work on the long-range projects begun by CMLA: a cumulative list of the Canadian items in the "Liste internationale selective" of *Fontes Artis Musicae*, and a revision of the *Bio-Bibliographical Finding List of Canadian Musicians and Those Who Have Contributed to Music in Canada*. The permanent address of the Association is: c/o The Music Division, National Library, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario, K14, Canada.

A notice appeared in the American's "Music Library Association" Notes publication in December 1972 announcing the new association.

The Archive

Library and Archives Canada (national library of Canada)

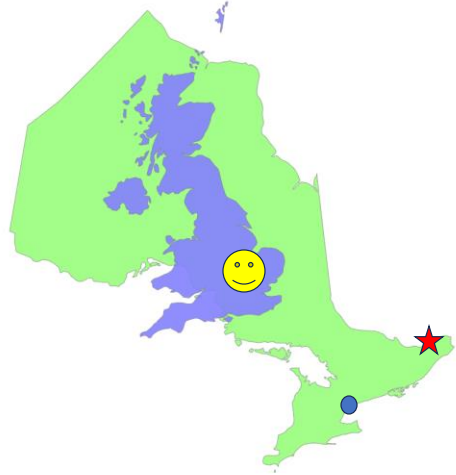
Now I will talk about the archive itself. The archives live in our nation's capital of Ottawa, at our national library which is called Library and Archives Canada, or LAC.



Ottawa is 467 km from Toronto, where I live. I normally travel to Ottawa by train or by car in order to consult the archives.

FUN FACT

Ontario (Canada) is 4.4 times
larger than the United Kingdom



http://www.comparea.org/CA_ON+GBR

Here is a fun fact: The province of Ontario, which contains Toronto and Ottawa, is 4.4 times larger than the United Kingdom. The happy face is where Cambridge is.

Also, the comparea website is very fun to play with!



Access

- [Search the collections](#)
- Finding Aid (?)
- [Request form](#)
- Allow 10 business days
- [User Card](#)
- 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

I have never used an archive before, so the process was new to me. I have been grateful for the advice and assistance of Maureen Nevins, past president of CAML and Manager of Music Archives at LAC throughout my research so far.

All the archives are in storage and one must place a request at least 10 days before visiting. You will need a user card in order to place requests, and to gain on site access. Register for the user card in advance of your visit.

The requesting procedure is very tedious because you must fill out one request form for every CAML archive box (aka “volume”) you want to see. That means 21 request forms!

The building is very beautiful, and is on the same street as the national parliament buildings. Photographs of the archives are permitted.



When you search "Canadian Association of Music Libraries" you get many results that point to the Helmut Kallmann fonds, and you find yourself thinking that this is the main location for the CAML materials.

Not true! (click)

A better search is "Canadian Association of Music Libraries Archives and Documentation Centres" and then you find the CAML fonds.

The CAML fonds comprise 21 boxes, or "volumes." I personally find the access through LAC's site very difficult to navigate, and there is no finding aid for the fonds.

There are significant materials related to CAML and IAML in the Helmut Kallmann fonds (he is one of our founders), and if you investigate further you will also find additional materials in the Maria Calderisi fonds. (click)

[next]

Access

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IDC_ISN=392404
C910 MEDIA : SOUND
C310 TITLE : Cataloguing workshop
C370 PRDTE : 1981-06-11/1981-06-12
C480 LANG : English
C460 SBJDSC : Sound recording of a cataloguing workshop with Mrs McNeil.
ARCHIVAL REF# : MUS 83
ARCHIVAL REF# : Canadian Association of Music Libraries
ARCHIVAL REF# : Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques Musicales
ARCHIVAL REF# : 1977-4
T990 MIKAN : 206293
*****
VAULT_ISN=462114
V110 VLTSLF : C 67
V150 VQTY : 1
V170 VSOUND : CASSETTE
V200 VTCHDS : POLY
V340 VORGRS : DEPOSIT
V350 VSTATS : ORIG
*****
VAULT_ISN=541887
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                392404-C67-S2.wav
V220 VDORTN : 96:31
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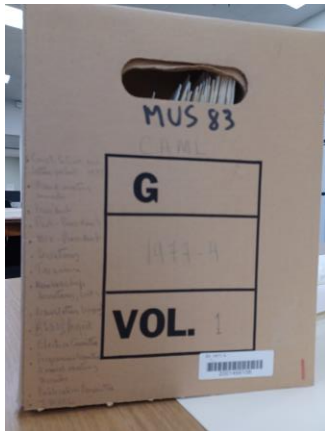
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Search (Summary) Results				
Add To Retrieval Request Queries Select Close				
Results 1 - 5 of 80				
	Barcode	Use	Container	Description
	Circulation		Type	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2001456108 In Storage	Permanent	B20S	206293 : Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centre fonds [textual record (one electronic), sound recording] : R16497-0-2-4; Duet(s) 1972-1985; 1 Textual records : Fonds / Private / 90-Open / (Original) (Add Notes) (MUS 83 1977-4 1) (Client Rights)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2001456109 In Storage	Permanent	B20S	206293 : Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centre fonds [textual record (one electronic), sound recording] : R16497-0-2-4; Duet(s) 1972-1985; 1 Textual records : Fonds / Private / 90-Open / (Original) (Add Notes) (MUS 83 1977-4 2) (Client Rights)
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<input type="checkbox"/>	2001456112 In Storage	Permanent	B20S	206293 : Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centre fonds [textual record (one electronic), sound recording] : R16497-0-2-4; Duet(s) 1972-1985; 1 Textual records : Fonds / Private / 90-Open / (Original) (Add Notes) (MUS 83 1977-4 5) (Client Rights)

I consulted with Maureen via email prior to my first visit, and she compiled a list of the 21 catalogue records, one for each box in the CAML fonds (seen on the RH of the screen) – one needs all these codes to request the materials out of storage.

That list is also confusing to me where it says “textual record, one electronic, sound recording” – these are boxes of textual records. The sound recordings and computer files are in separate archives. On the LH side of the screen is an example of a record for one of the sound recordings: a cassette recording of a cataloguing workshop from 1981. There are 30 audio cassettes, 26 tape reels, and 1 computer reel in the CAML fonds. All the audio files have been digitized, and one can request to listen.

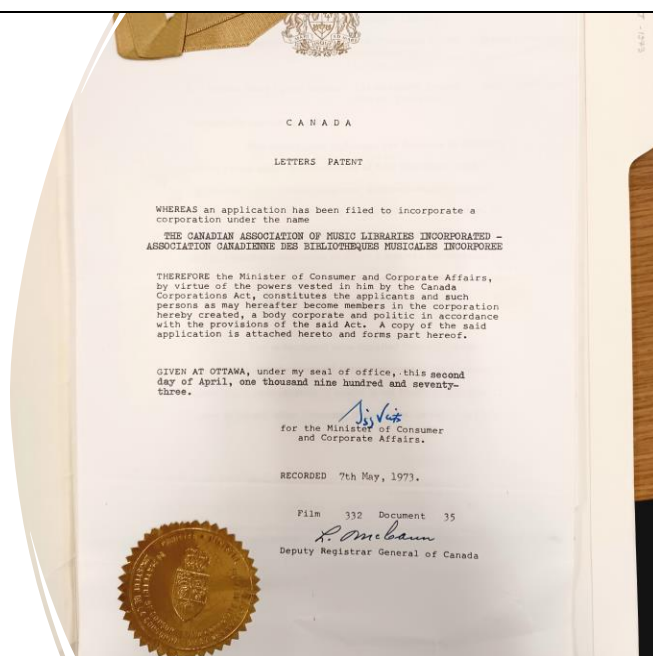
Important to understand that the archiving and description for the CAML files have been the responsibility of many people over time, and it largely relies on the organizational skills of the CAML member whose files they are. Some members were very meticulous filers and record keepers, others clearly just sent un-sorted boxes of things to the national library when their terms on the Board were finished. The national library have done their best over the years, but obviously they have many competing priorities and their staff numbers have declined over the years.



Here is what the boxes (or "volumes") look like, with the files inside. This box, Volume 1, has a list of contents on the outside, but most boxes have either nothing or one line indicating "treasurer files 1980-85" or similar. The files in the photo on the right are quite meticulously organized and labelled, but the level of organization really varies box by box. Many files just say "miscellaneous."

What is there?

- Comprehensive files from 1956-1971; 1971-1990
- Minutes
- Constitutions
- Correspondence
- Publications
- Projects



There is a comprehensive record for the entire life of the CMLA, and the first twenty years or so of CAML. You will find minutes of meetings, drafts of constitutions and bylaws, drafts and materials for the various publications and projects, final copies of the publications, financial documents, and correspondence. This is a photograph of the letters patent from the Canadian government which were finally issued in 1973.

There are very few materials after 1990. Perhaps this is about the time librarians had personal computers on their desks, and e-mail started to be in common use. There are one or two examples of printed e-mail correspondence from the early 1990s, but after that I think we started storing our files on discs and stopped depositing materials at the national library. A future project for somebody would be gathering, describing, and archiving all the digital files of CAML since 1990.

Interesting Finds

- Correspondence
- "minute books" 1956-71
- Evolution of annual conference
- IAML 1975, 1994
- "archives & documentation centres" (1978, 1990)
- Plus ça change...
 - Low Membership
 - Finding volunteers
 - Paying IAML

in sorry this letter is so informal -
fully all I've said is clear.

Happy Easter



I'll be in the office again next
day! after spending the long weekend
in Vancouver.

Sandy

This charming bunny drawing is a great example of the personalities you can find in the CAML archives. This is a letter from Sandra Benet (music librarian at University of Victoria on Canada's west coast) to Maria Calderisi in the late 1970s. I enjoy watching relationships grow through correspondence between Board members – it might be more formal, Mr and Mrs, when they first start working together on the Board, then changing to a first-name basis over the years, exchanging news of illnesses, births, and travel plans.

CLA used official "minute books" for their record keeping so minutes of all CMLA's annual business meetings and mid-year executive meetings are carefully preserved there. It's lovely to read about three executive members meeting in someone's living room over tea and cookies.

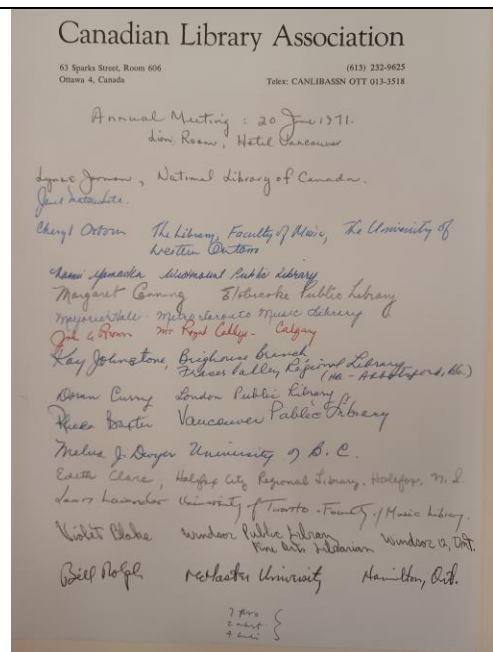
From 1971 to 1974 CAML continued holding its annual business meetings at the national library association conference. In 1975 Canada hosted the IAML conference in Montreal, and after that we began holding joint conferences with our national musicological society. Canada hosted another IAML conference in 1994, this time in Ottawa. I enjoy reading about the conference planning and financing from the days before the Internet.

Another point of interest is the fact that we have worried about membership numbers and volunteerism since 1956. Even in 1969 when the CMLA reached 107 members, low membership was on the agenda. The challenge of finding volunteers for Board positions is also as old as our association. Regarding IAML payments, we have been affiliated with IAML to varying degrees since the early days, and paying IAML dues to IAML has long been a hot topic for our treasurers.

I look forward to the year ahead, learning more about our history, and writing it down for others to read.

Questions & Discussion

How are the archives of other national branches?



I'll leave you with this attendance list from the important meeting in June 1971 where we voted to leave CLA and join IAML. At the bottom you can see the count of the vote: 7 for, 4 against, and 2 abstentions.

Now I'd like to hear your questions and your comments about the archive of your national branch. Thank you!