



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)

Japan, report 2010

As of June 5th 2010, the number of the IAML Japan members is 73.

The home page for IAML (Japan) (<http://www.iaml.jp/> (link is external)) now shows pictures from the IAML Tokyo Conference in 1988. It was done to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the foundation of IAML Japan. One can enjoy a series of conference scenes more than twenty years ago as a slide show. In fact some IAML members have already seen them and sent us warm messages, for which we are very grateful.

A joint seminar entitled *Concerning the Outsourcings in Music Libraries* was held last fall by IAML Japan and the Music Library Association of Japan (MLAJ). We discussed problems about the outsourcing of music libraries in Japan, with reports of present situations and results of questionnaires. In fact, music libraries and music librarians in Japan today are facing a crisis. Many Japanese music libraries have serious financial difficulties with resulting inefficient services. The fact that many capable music librarians are now at their retirement is another problem, while to hire new librarians in their place is often postponed or even frozen. As a means of cost saving of institutions, outsourcing library operations in music libraries are being promoted. Some music librarians are even forced to move to unrelated new posts in order to cut the cost. At some public libraries, music librarians are often moved around various posts in short periods of time, due to the Designated Management System institutionalized by the governments.

Under such a circumstance, IAML Japan has been seeking a way to improve the social status of music librarians for several years. The General Assembly of IAML Japan held in June this year has decided to start a new project to develop a program for training music librarians. It will be officially called the *Project for Training Music Librarians* and will be a part of our thirtieth-anniversary enterprise. It will be necessary to have the cooperation of the MLAJ and start with a questionnaire on music libraries by their staffs, aiming at organizing a committee to adopt a plan of core competency for music librarians in Japan. If possible we hope to find enough funds to invite IAML members to Japan to have a round table on the subject. We have already asked for such funds to the Promoting Foundations of Libraries, but it was rejected. However, we hope to find other possibilities now. Any advices and suggestions on this project are very much welcome.

Last year, the Musicological Society of Japan has organized a research committee to investigate on “music sources in Japan,” with cooperation of IAML Japan and MLAJ, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs has offered 7.8 million Yen for the project to start with a research to make a database of music sources in Japan. The research has been conducted with cooperation of local public libraries, university and college libraries, and music libraries, and as a result a database of about 20,000 items of Western music materials has been gathered. It includes: 1) original manuscripts of Japanese composers; 2) music published in Japan before 1945; 3) manuscripts by non-Japanese composers; and 4) Western music published before 1900. Unfortunately the database is officially a property of the Agency and is not open to the public at this time.



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However, it is evident that its contents are much related to the future work of the RISM Japan. Problems revealed by the research and its future were discussed at a symposium held after the general assembly of the IAML Japan on 5 June. The problem is how to make the database open to public and how to improve it, but it is certainly one good step for the future.

The Documentation Centre for Modern Japanese Music, which owns many original materials of modern Japanese music including manuscripts of many composers and musicians, was temporarily closed on March 31. It was a unique institution opened as the Library of Toyama Music Foundation in 1966 and then reestablished as the Documentation Centre for Modern Japanese Music in 1987. Prof. Kazuyuki Toyama, the founder and the owner of the Foundation, is still active at the age of 88, but he decided to entrust its ownership to the Meiji Gakuin University, considering its future. It is now expected that Prof. Ryuichi Higuchi, professor at the university and also a member of both the IAML Japan and the RISM, will open the new Centre within the University Library of the Meiji Gakuin. The collection will be transported during this summer and the new centre is expected to be open sometime in next year. Meanwhile we would like to offer a heart-felt gratitude to Prof. Toyama, who served the first president of the IAML Japan and who has financially kept Toyama Music Foundation nearly half a century.

Yasuko Todo

Vice-president, IAML (Japan) with Masakata Kanazawa, president