New Zealand, report 2009

The IAML (NZ) Annual Conference, was held in Auckland over 2 days in Nov 2008, jointly hosted by The University of Auckland and Auckland City Libraries. A new executive committee was elected, of which I (Phillippa) am the President. Many of the sessions focused on physical resources - what to do with donations, new ideas for handling and binding music scores, as well as sessions on the latest electronic resources coming on stream. Planning is well underway now for the next conference to be held in Wellington in Nov 2009.

The beginning of 2009 was more difficult, with the announcement in March of the long awaited review of the National Library Music Services. With a scant 4 weeks to gather support, the executive and individual members lobbied and emailed and phoned and even blogged, and gathered some impressive support from librarians and musicologists and journalists and teachers and many many musicians. We sadly found ourselves labelled with the "luddite" group for suggesting that keeping current resources intact was more important, or at least as important, as creating the next and brightest digital playground.

Among all the publicity the National Library very quietly announced in June that they had received almost 200 formal submissions and would be reconsidering the whole scheme.

Other successful ventures for the year include a hands-on seminar on "Music for Non-music Librarians" presented at the NZ Libraries' conference by 5 IAML members which was happily oversubscribed. There seems to be a continuing demand for such training and we are considering running a similar session for private and school music teachers in Wellington later in the year.

IAML also provided a submission in Dec 2008 to the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations involving the United States, to do specifically with copyright issues and how any changes proposed by the USA might affect music and libraries in New Zealand.

Membership

Membership of IAML (NZ) Branch for 2008 was 16 international members (institutional and individual) + 12 local members.

Publications

Our journal Crescendo carries on being published 3 times per year. An important event was the republishing of the first chapter of Dr Angela Annabel's masters thesis, "Music in Auckland 1840-1855". The rest of this seminal research will be published in future issues.

Phillippa McKeown-Green
President, IAML(NZ)