

New Zealand / Aotearoa - 2016 report

Our 33rd IAML (NZ) Conference was held in Wellington at Victoria University and the National Library of New Zealand on the 5th and 6th November 2015. Members from around the country travelled to join us.

Our keynote speaker was Chris Bourke and he entitled his paper 'We Shall Get There in Time' - contemporary responses to the Great War by New Zealand musicians. This is based on research he is undertaking in his role as research scholar for the National Library and will be the basis of his new book – a prequel to his award winning book Blue Smoke: the Lost Dawn of New Zealand Popular Music, 1918-1964

Following on from this we had Dr Jennifer Cattermole, Department of Music, Otago University talking about Music's role in the Moriori cultural renaissance . The Moriori are the indigenous people of the Chatham Islands , east of the New Zealand archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. Her talk outlined a brief history of Moriori efforts to preserve, sustain and revive their music, focusing particularly on the work done on this by the Hokotehi Moriori Trust (HMT), and proposed some future directions for this work.

Pianist, Piano teacher, composer and writer Gillian Bibby followed on with a very dynamic and entertaining overview of her recently published album of NZ sheet music for piano – Living Echoes : the first 150 of piano music in New Zealand. Gillian talked about her discoveries as she researched the first 150 years of piano music in New Zealand, beautifully illustrated by pianist Ludwig Treviranus and singer Roger Wilson.

Our final paper for the day was by James Ting Edwards from Internet NZ who explored the challenges involved in developing a copyright law that works for NZ consumers and creative people.

The second day of conference included our AGM after which we had an entertaining talk from Nicholas Palmer, pianist for the Royal NZ Ballet Company.

Amanda Mills and Phillippa McKeown-Green followed with a summary of their experiences at the international IAML conference in New York.

We then got to see behind the scenes in the Digitisation Suite at the National Library and saw how they go about the digitisation process and what projects the Digitisation Unit are currently working on.

Conference concluded on a jazzy note with jazz historian Dr Aleisha Ward who talked to us about Jazzy Nerves, Aching Feet, and Foxtrots: Representations of Jazz in the New Zealand Media.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

We had a good turn-out for the AGM and covered much ground. The Committee reported back on a meeting we had prior to Conference with Ruth MacEachern from the National Library of New Zealand. Some suggestions were made to raise the profile of the music collections and its music staff and potential collaborations with IAML(NZ) for training workshops and digitisation projects.

LIANZA (The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa)

The committee produced one short, five-minute training video about different types of musical scores. This was posted on the LIANZA website and also on the IAML(NZ) facebook page which got a very pleasing response with over 200 views. This has encouraged us to think about what we could do next!

IAML (NZ) Conference

Our 2016 conference will be held on 3rd and 4th 2016 November in Dunedin. The committee is currently planning the programme. This is the first conference to be held in the South Island for a number of years and we are excited about this opportunity to enjoy their hospitality.

This year is also election year where a new President will be nominated and voted in.

National Library

IAML (NZ) and the National Library are beginning to work together to raise the profile of their music staff and the services that the National Library offer. Improved visibility of the music collections and the music staff on the National Website have been a great result. Michael Brown, Curator of Music at the Turnbull Library, presented a lecture in Auckland in June 2016 and a digitisation project of Charles Thatcher's work is being coordinated between the Hocken Library, Auckland Libraries and the Alexander Turnbull Library.

National Library Music Collections Collecting Plan

IAML(NZ) has had the opportunity to give feedback into the draft of the National Library Collecting Plan which will influence how the music collections are managed for the next 5 years. There were areas in the plan where we felt that the New Zealand music collection was given too much priority at the cost of developing the general music collection.

TPP agreement

Phillippa McKeown-Green made submissions on behalf of IAML(NZ) to the Select Committee seeking feedback on the impact of the TPP agreement with relation to copyright.

RILM

Elizabeth Smith remains as chair of the committee, which also includes Marilyn Portman, Paul Elmsley and Phillippa McKeown-Green.

Membership

We have had a pleasing increase in membership this year

Membership of IAML (NZ) Branch for 2015 is made up of 11 institutional members,

7 individual international members, and 12 local members.

Publications

We continue to publish our journal Crescendo with increased access through being available full text through EBSCO and RILM. Our editor Keith McEwing is continuing to produce a quality journal.

Marilyn Portman President, IAML (NZ)