

Outreach Committee

The session of the Outreach Committee at the Riga Congress took place on Monday 19th of June and was attended by seven people. After presenting the report written for the General Assembly there was a free discussion on topics related to it.

The options taken by the local organising committees of each Congress must be better coordinated with the general criteria of the Outreach Committee in order to decide how to allocate Outreach Funding. It is desirable to be able to accommodate helping those from geographic areas close to the Congress country in addition to helping those from much further afield.

It is also desirable to request that people who have received Outreach funds to attend a IAML Congress (who are often from countries not well represented in IAML) should write a description of the situation of music libraries in their countries, so that it may be included on the Outreach Committee website page.

Also discussed was the responsibility of the Outreach Committee in IAML congresses. The Outreach Committee should try to propose sessions to the Programme Committee.

A proposal from the Association Européenne des Conservatoires was presented concerning the possibility of sharing a webpage area for matching offers and requests on music materials.

Concern was expressed about the alarming situation of music libraries in Armenia. The Outreach Committee should write to the Armenian National Library, which we think absorbed the now-closed music library, to say we understand that they have these music materials now, and that we are contacting them to find out about the preservation/care of these materials, what is planned for them, and offering IAML's help.

The Committee should also work on reaching out to countries where we know very little about music library provision. Regarding Africa, the Outreach Committee should work on making contacts now, far in advance of the 2021 IAML congress at Stellenbosch, in order to encourage attendance.

The Outreach Committee should develop templates to be used in its communications, which will make action far easier and more efficient. Specifically, the following three templates should be developed:

- Inquiries about destroyed, closed, or moved libraries asking where the music materials went, what the plans are for them, and how IAML can help.
- Inquiries to find contacts in various countries to ascertain who can act as conduits in various regions for IAML concerns and activities.
- Initial letter to institutions and individuals in under-represented areas of the world, introducing them to IAML and asking about the situation in their countries and how IAML can help.

IAML used to give free memberships in the past, and it was effective, but it appears that we no longer do this. The Outreach Committee should investigate this and make recommendations to the Board.

The Outreach Committee could encourage sponsored IAML membership. That is, national branches could be encouraged to sponsor free IAML institutional memberships; individuals could be encouraged to offer individual free memberships; and institutions that are already IAML members could be encouraged to sponsor other institutional memberships. The Outreach committee could also contact wealthy diaspora communities to seek their support in sponsorships and contributions (perhaps) to libraries in their native countries; this is an effort that could be led and coordinated by the Outreach Committee.