

Finland / Suomi National Report 2019

Membership

The IAML Finnish Branch has 79 members, of which 29 are individual and 50 institutional.

The Board

The IAML Finland Board consisted of 10 members, the officials being:

Tuomas Pelttari (Turku City Library) – Chairman
Jaska Järvilehto (Helsinki Conservatoire Library) – Vice Chairman
Maaret Storgårds (Music Archive) – Treasurer
Anna Niemi (University Of Arts Library | Kuopio) – Secretary *
Maaria Harviainen (University Of Arts Helsinki | Sibelius Academy)
Kari Laitinen (Music Finland)
Lassi Kokkonen (Helsinki City Library)
Tarja Lehtinen (National Library of Finland)
Johanna Parviainen (BTJ Finland)
Katri Riiheläinen (BTJ Finland)
Tommi Viitamies (Helsinki City Library)

* Not a Board Member

The Branch Autumn Meeting 2018

The Branch Autumn Meeting took place in Music Finland, Helsinki on December 4, 2018, led by our very own Heikki Poroila. The participants witnessed significant elections. Maaret Storgårds, our Treasurer of many years, finally got a successor. As new Treasurer we welcomed Ilari Reuhkala. The Board also welcomed Inka Myyry (National Library Of Finland) and Tiina Tolonen of Oulu University Of Applied Sciences as new Board Members while Anna Niemi (University Of The Arts) stayed on as Secretary. Also elected to The Board were Maaria Harviainen (University of the Arts Helsinki | Sibelius Academy), Kari Laitinen (Music Finland) and Tommi Viitamies (Helsinki City Library). As Board Deputy Members were elected Lassi Kokkonen (Helsinki City Library), Tarja Lehtinen (National Library Of Finland) and Johanna Parviainen (BTJ Finland).

Many times it was obvious how the invaluable work of Maaret Storgårds held our financial side together. Her legacy will remain as a stronghold for future Board Work. The Board also applauded Vice President Jaska Järvilehto for his relentless work as Vice President and leading the Muska-section together with Tiina Tolonen and Maaria Harviainen, also at times of stress and turmoil. We were glad to know that Järvilehto will continue with Muska-section even outside the Board. We also thank Katri Riiheläinen as Johanna Parviainen continues on the Board on behalf of BTJ Finland.

The Spring Seminar 2019

Once again, the traditional Spring Seminar was held in Metso, the Main Building of Tampere City Library. In 24 April over 50 participants – in person and online – gathered together to witness a program full of vivid presentations and discussion. The seminar was exceptional because of two things. First, the afternoon panel

was waiting for streaming. The first time for Kirjastokaista to stream a live feed for IAML Finland. Second, the one year old Muska-group was coming together in a separate session inside the seminar program.

IAML Finland President **Tuomas Pelttari** opened the seminar with good news. The National Repository Library of Finland has been able to increase the level of catalogued music items in its collection. With Turku City Library and Tampere City Library involved the amount of CDs is rising – and without losing national availability or any online data while items change place. The increase of CDs, vinyl and sheet music is visible through ready-made searches on Finna. The numbers may not seem large but bearing in mind that compact discs were not present in the National Repository Library (NRL) at all until 2017 we have made a great leap forward. Other significant steps are the increase of catalogued vinyl and the clearance of almost all uncatalogued sheet music, delivered to the NRL over a long period of time. A lot of cataloguing work still remains to be done but things are looking better. Instead of losing valuable music items our ongoing goal must be to make the NRL service of restoring data and different formats available to all Finnish libraries.

In late 2018 IAML Finland commented on the total lack of CD and vinyl collections in the new Oodi Library in Helsinki. This fact was brought to light when Vesa Sirén of *Helsingin Sanomat* wrote about it. Pelttari and Vice President Järvilehto took the opportunity to also express the constant need for physical music recordings, including the constant flow of box sets and complete recordings with all the additional information excluded in streaming services. The comment was published in *Helsingin Sanomat* on 17 October 2018.

Pelttari presented the new IAML Finland Board including Vice President Inka Myyry and Treasurer Ilari Reuhkala. Also presented was the Muska-Group, put together before an audience a full year ago in Metso by Maaria Harviainen, Tiina Tolonen and Jaska Järvilehto. The national music library site Musiikkikirjastot was given a brief spotlight by its editor Pelttari. He pointed out that all the blog content and insight of Levyhyllyt (Record Shelves) is for common use for all interested, also through library homepages and social media.

As the head of the 30-year-old National Repository Library **Johanna Vesterinen** brought the seminar up to speed with the latest news. Vesterinen talked about the incoming music items and its handling in the NRL. Established in Kuopio in 1989 the NRL has suffered a lack of resource as far as music items are concerned. These days, however, the situation has changed a bit. and Vesterinen pointed out that there was no legal obstacle to continuing the in-flow and cataloguing work of recordings and sheet music. The promising development started to come to fruition two years earlier as the possibilities of restoring CD items in the NRL was studied by Tuomas Pelttari and Erkki Lounasvuori. Vesterinen. The NRL were optimistic from the start as the test pilot run of CDs was a success. At the same time there was almost no uncatalogued workload left in the NRL, except for vinyl and sheet music collections. Through reorganization these entities were brought to the fore and new work began. As three people were able to take on the workload of unravelling the vinyl and sheet music, great results were achieved during 2017 and 2018. All uncatalogued sheet music and a great portion of the old vinyl storage are now catalogued and available for interlibrary loan.



Johanna Vesterinen, Head of National Repository Library of Finland.

As 480 recordings were catalogued in the NRL in 2017, the number in 2018 was almost 6,000 catalogued recordings. Great improvement and new opportunities for music repository work may occur as the amount of printed material of books and periodicals have diminished during the last few years. Vesterinen told the seminar about the new standards put together with the NRL and the Ministry of Education and Culture: music items intake and cataloguing can continue in the NRL if the incoming printed material is also handled and catalogued appropriately and extra queues and costs can be avoided.

Of the repository situation of the CDs Vesterinen went through some of the basics of the so-called LowTag-operation required in the transfer from a public library to the NRL. The LowTag mark inside the Melinda Catalogue ensures that the metadata stays intact as the CD-item itself is moved to the NRL. This helps the workload inside the NRL as new deliveries of CDs arrive.

At the time of the Spring Seminar the NRL has 24 linear metres of CDs and 61 linear metres of LPs and for loan. All in all, with careful planning and cooperation the NRL has open doors for music.



Topias Tiheäsalo

Freelance Yle Radio 1 voice, musician and music pedagog **Topias Tiheäsalo** took the stage next with CDs Are Forever – For The Sake Of Music Libraries and Music Recordings. Tiheäsalo held the seminar in a tight grip with anecdotes of real life, experiences as a creative music maker and library customer, as Tiheäsalo has visited the Turku City Music Library frequently for a good part of his life. Because of his line of work he has been completely dependent of music library services and its collections for years. Tiheäsalo felt the ongoing downgrading of the CD format troubling, as troubling as the misconception that "all music is already available online". Tiheäsalo's message for the public music library was to be very careful with removing CD items from the collections. Poor streaming and video quality, missing performance information, lack of important sleeve notes will always be there to haunt music professionals as Tiheäsalo. His opinion is that music library services work well against the fragmented information all over the internet.

The Branch Spring Meeting 2019 took place just before the Spring Seminar lunch hour.



Antti Impivaara (on the left) leading the panel with Jean Ramsay, Topias Tiheäsalo, Juhani Koivisto and Maarit Helen

As the 40th anniversary highlight IAML Finland was happy to present the panel *Kuuluuko asiakkaan ääni musiikkikirjastossa?* (*Is the customer's voice heard in the music library?*) available online. Over almost an hour and a half there was tight conversation between **Maarit Helen** and **Juhani Koivisto** (both Tampere City Library), **Jean Ramsay** (Rumba Magazine) and **Topias Tiheäsalo** (Yle Radio 1), led by **Antti Impivaara** of Finnish Library Association. The panellists shared their concern of the possibility of not having physical records available in public libraries. We all have different needs concerning music and all needs should be met with ability to serve. The panel was streamed live by Kirjastokaista and is available [here](#).

IAML Leipzig 2018

IAML Finland was represented in Leipzig by Vice President Jaska Järvilehto. IAML Finland was also delighted to have Marko Aho of Sastamala Library to attend IAML Leipzig. As Aho gave his insight on his work during the congress, he also wrote about the journey. Aho's report was published on September 1 on the national music library blog *Musiikki kuuluu kaikille*. His paper (slides [here](#)) '*The public library as a site of empowerment for the local music scene*' presented the Sastamala City Library project started in Autumn 2018. The project was concentrating on ground-level music enthusiasts breaking new ground – with the help of the Sastamala Library and its new ways of involving its customers in presenting their creative work.

Website

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IAML Finland on [Facebook](#)

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Tuomas Pelttari (Chairman)

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