

IAML Public Libraries Section Riga 2017 Congress Summary

At the Riga Congress, the Public Libraries Section held two programme sessions:

- The Future of Music Libraries, grew out of discussions at the Section's 2016 working meeting in Rome. Tuomas Pelttari (Turku City Library, Turku, Finland) presented the "National Music Respository Library in Finland : the past, present and future" in which sound recordings are saved in a national repository library. Julie Bill (Musicians' Institute, Hollywood, California, USA) discussed a user survey she had conducted to determine library priorities in "Music libraries: give the people what they want! From print and digital scores, practice space, and software, to streamed access, to clinics and master classes." The session concluded with a general discussion involving all attendees of the session.
- Reaching out, began with Geoff Thomason (Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, England, UK) discussing a collaborative World War I music project between his college, the public library and an orchestra archive in "It takes a war (to bring libraries together): cross-sectoral collaboration between music libraries. Marianna Zoldos (Brody Sandor Public Library, Eger, Hungary) illustrated her innovative programming with "Free air guitar, please take one: unusual music sessions for children in a public library", which got the attendees rocking.

In addition to the programme sessions, the Section held a working meeting for public librarians. Discussion included digital and traditional collections and services, programming, musical instruments in the library, and other happenings in public music libraries. We also received an invitation from the public library in Leipzig to hold our working meeting at the Library there next year.

New officers for the Section were elected in Riga for the 2017-2020 term. They are

- Chair: vacant
- Vice Chair: Carolyn Dow (USA)
- Secretary: Niklas Persson (Sweden)

Hanneke Kuiper was sincerely thanked for her five terms (15 years) of service to the Section, as Secretary, Chair and Vice Chair.

Submitted by: Carolyn Dow (Public Libraries Section, Chair 2014-2017)