

National report: United Kingdom and Ireland 2016

Summary

The UK & Ireland Branch continues to support the work of music libraries and librarians through its programme of activities – Annual Study Weekend, seminars and courses, advocacy and provision of resources, Encore21 and a new website. Collaboration with other organisations has played an important role during the last year.

Branch administrative and business matters

Executive Committee April 2016 – April 2017

Officers: President: Anna Wright (Royal Northern College of Music); Immediate Past President: Peter Baxter (Surrey Performing Arts Library); General Secretary: Roy Stanley (Trinity College Dublin); Treasurer: Monika Pietras (Royal College of Music); Brio Editor: Martin Holmes (Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford); Newsletter & Blog Editor: Margaret Jones (University of Cambridge); Education Officer: Geoff Thomason (Royal Northern College of Music); Membership Secretary: Janet Waterhouse; Communications Officer: Peter Linnitt (Royal College of Music) (to October), Adam Taylor (Royal Academy of Music) (from October)

Elected members: Frances Allott (Kent History and Library Centre); Almut Boehme (National Library of Scotland); Claire Kidwell (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance); Rupert Ridgewell (British Library), Ruth Walters (Westminster Music Library), Janet Waterhouse (University of Huddersfield).

IAML Board Member: Antony Gordon

Non-voting members. Minutes Secretary: Rebecca Nye (Royal Academy of Music); Music Libraries Trust Representative: Pamela Thompson / Peter Baxter

The Executive Committee met three times between April 2016 – March 2017 (May, October and January)

The Annual General Meeting was held on 8 April 2017, as part of the Branch's Annual Study Weekend.

Committees & Working Groups

The Branch has the following Committees and Working Groups:

Communications Committee (Chair, Peter Linnitt / Adam Taylor); Conference Committee (Chair, Frances Allott); Courses & Education Committee (Chair, Geoff Thomason); Documentation Committee (Chair: Rupert Ridgewell); Finance & Administration Committee (Chair: Anna Wright); Trade & Copyright Committee (Chair, Claire Kidwell)

C.B. Oldman Prize (Convenor: Charlotte Jones); E.T. Bryant Prize (Convenor: Helen Mason);

Webmaster: Antony Gordon

Membership (as at December 2016)

The UK and Ireland Branch has 182 members, of which 82 are institutional (40 national, 42 international) and 100 are personal (53 national, 47 international). This is an overall decrease of 6 in comparison with the previous year. The Branch also has 12 honorary members.

Branch activities

Advocacy

As reported last year, the Branch did submit a response to the Libraries Taskforce consultation document "Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016–2021". The resulting report made a brief mention of the role of music libraries.

Public libraries continue to be affected by local council budget cuts; however there was a positive outcome to a potentially negative situation when the Yorkshire Music Library (a large collection of performance sets used by choirs and orchestras countrywide) was taken over by Leeds Libraries. Other libraries are finding creative ways to gain the support of, and work with, their users particularly through the establishment of "Friends" groups.

Annual Study Weekend

The Annual Study Weekend took place 7 – 9 April 2017 at the University of Exeter. In total 48 people, including speakers, attended the weekend. The packed programme was a good mix of presentations, participatory sessions and information–sharing slots with a wide variety of topics being covered in the course of the weekend: sharing good practice (with input from 2016 Excellence Award winners); partnership working; new and/or developing resources; practical guidance; music, bibliography and research. All of this alongside the opportunities for informal networking and "putting faces to names".

Awards and Prizes

The E.T. Bryant Prize (2016) was awarded to Megan Dyson for her dissertation: *The Hybrid Music Conservatoire Library: A Mixed Methods Study of Leeds College of Music Library Users' Format Preferences*.

The C. B. Oldman Prize (2016 – for a 2015 publication) for an outstanding work of music bibliography, music reference, or music librarianship by an author resident in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland was awarded to David Greer for: *Manuscript inscriptions in early English printed music* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2015) ISBN 9781472445872

Communications

The Committee has started to develop its work and has identified key areas as PR, Press and Communications, alongside an important advocacy role. One aim is to raise awareness of the Branch and its achievements and activities as well as the brilliant work done by individual members.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, the Branch now has a new [website](#) which, in addition to an updated appearance, has given us much greater flexibility for editing content as well as providing a members–only area. It has also enabled us to move the [blog](#) to sit within the website.

Courses and Education

The role of the committee is to devise and deliver training courses in the core skills demanded by the highly specialised nature of music librarianship. These courses fulfil a vital educational role for the increasing number of libraries and library assistants who are called on to manage music collections but who lack the specialist musical expertise. 'Virtuoso Skills' which covers high–level enquiry work was presented in August and attracted a good number of attendees from both the public and academic sectors. The Committee has been reviewing the content of its courses to ensure they are up–to–date and will be offering some of them again later in 2017.

Owing to the location, the academic and public libraries' seminars were not held prior to the start of the Annual Study Weekend in Exeter but will be take place separately later in the year in May and July respectively.

Documentation

A new version of Encore! was launched at the Annual Study Weekend in April called [Encore 21](#). Key points to note are that the software has been updated, so enabling easier searching and, during the updating process, existing data was converted to MARC21 and cleaned–up, with many incorrect field usages removed, and numerous duplicate records amalgamated. The work on Encore has not only future–proofed the data, but the new software will also allow a team of editors to maintain it, and enable registered libraries to correct and update their own records, so leading to smoother and quicker updating.

The Branch's archive is being sorted, re-arranged and listed and should be moved to a new location during 2017. It will also incorporate any unique material from the Branch's Library which has now been disbanded.

The Committee also has oversight of Cecilia and the Concert Programmes database on behalf of the Branch which funds the hosting costs. After 17 years as Cecilia Manager Susi Woodhouse has stepped down from this voluntary position and the Branch has just appointed Chris Scobie (British Library) to succeed her.

Trade & Copyright

The Committee continued its work on developing [FAQs relating to music copyright](#) in both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and these are available on the Branch website.

Following the successful copyright session at the Annual Study Weekend in 2016, this will now become a regular feature of the programme. At Exeter the topic was 'Copyright and Sound Recordings' and the presentation generated a lively discussion.

The Branch has been working with the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) which has led to input into the Copyright Notices on Live Music Performance (issued January 2016) and Printed Music (September 2016). Representatives of the Branch were also involved with a focus group putting together diligent search guidance for printed music.

The Committee has continued to work with the Music Publishers' Association (MPA) and assisted the Copyright Licensing Agency with the development of a survey relating to licensing of printed music for higher education.

The Music Libraries Trust

The Music Libraries Trust was able to award bursaries to four people to attend the 2017 Annual Study Weekend. This was thanks to generous sponsorship from the Trust itself, Cramer Music, Oxford University Press and Stainer & Bell. The Trust did not award the Ian Ledsham Bursary in 2016.

Publications

Two editions of *Brio* were published in 2016, edited by Martin Holmes.

Vol.53, No.1 (Spring/Summer)

- The bicentenary of William Sterndale Bennett (Barry Sterndale Bennett)
- Thomas William Bourne: a Handel 'pioneer' reassessed (Robert J. Bruce)
- The first Edinburgh Musical Festival ... (Karen E. McAulay)
- Exhibition review: Handel & Hendrix in London (Katharine Hogg)
- Book reviews

Vol.53, No.2 (Autumn/Winter)

- Musical history from Novello's warehouse ledgers: printed full scores and print runs in documenting the promotion of British composers before the First World War (Lewis Foreman)
- Keeping time: the Hallé's archive (Eleanor Roberts)
- Ancient church music published by the Motett Society: a list with the original sources (Richard Turbett)
- Cataloguing Haydn's breastpin: music collections, user-generated content and perceptions of value (Diana Caulfield)
- RDA implementation in music libraries in the UK: empirical research project findings (2014) (Julija Paskova)
- Book reviews

The Newsletter was published twice in 2016 and is available on the Branch [website](#).

RILM / RISM

RILM. The British Library has provided MARC records for recent monographs for uploading directly to the RILM database.

RISM. Southampton University is starting a project later this year on music in country houses and it is hoped that this will uncover material which can be catalogued in RISM.

Anna Wright

President, IAML (UK & Ireland)