



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

United Kingdom and Ireland, report 2015

Executive Committee 2014-2015

Officers: Branch President: Peter Baxter (Surrey Performing Arts Library); Immediate Past President: Richard Chesser (British Library); General Secretary: Roy Stanley (Trinity College Dublin); Treasurer: Monika Pietras (Royal College of Music); *Brio* Editor :Katharine Hogg; *Newsletter* Editor :Anna Pensaert (University of Cambridge); Education Officer: Geoff Thomason (Royal Northern College of Music); Membership Secretary: Nick Barlow; Outreach Officer: Vacant; Press and PR Officer: Peter Linnitt (Royal College of Music); Publications Officer: Almut Boehme (National Library of Scotland).

Elected Members: Claire Kidwell (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance), Karen McAulay (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), Frances Metcalfe (Kent History and Library Centre), Graham Muncy, Rupert Ridgewell (British Library), Ruth Walters (Westminster Music Library), Janet Waterhouse (University of Huddersfield).

IAML Board Member: Antony Gordon (British Library); Minutes Secretary – Rebecca Nye (Royal Academy of Music); Music Library Trust Representative – Pamela Thompson.

The Executive Committee met four times between April 2014 – March 2015 (April, July, October, February), but this is changing in 2015 and the Committee will only meet three times (February, June and October) in order to reduce expenditure.



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General Overview

This was a year of highs and lows. Highs came from all the work undertaken by the Branch and the publicity given to music libraries by the BBC, and lows came from the withdrawal of interlibrary loan services by two public library authorities and reviews affecting several other music libraries.

Organisational Review

The Organisational Review of the Branch that started in October 2013 was completed in July 2014 when the final report submitted by the Finance and Administration Committee and Susi Woodhouse was accepted by the Executive Committee.

The only changes proposed and approved were a reduction in the number of meetings of all committees from four to three per year; a more streamlined agenda for the meetings of the Executive Committee; and the establishment of a Communications, Public Relations, and Publications Committee (CPRP).

The first two of these proposals have already been implemented and it is hoped that the CPRP Committee will be properly established during the course of the coming year. It is worth noting that changing the agenda has been a great success and resulted in more time being available to focus on discussing important topics at the meetings of the Executive Committee.

In addition, the Treasurer also asked all the chairs and convenors of committees and working groups to submit their budgets for the following year in September to help her prepare the overall budget for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting in October. This has encouraged everyone to think and plan ahead, much to the benefit of the Branch.



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Annual Study Weekend

Our Annual Study Weekend (ASW) was held on 10-12 April 2015 at Aston University, Birmingham, and was another huge success. As ever, this was mainly due to the superb work of our Conference Committee and the large number of presentations on a wide variety of topics (see below). Attendees also greatly appreciated the modern hotel-standard venue and the excellent food.

The theme of the weekend was *New Libraries: What Can We Learn*, so delegates visited the Library of Birmingham (a public library) and heard presentations about the University of Birmingham Library and The Hive in Worcester (Europe's first joint university library and public library). It was interesting to hear about their experiences although the whole weekend was tinged with sadness at the prospect that all the music library staff at the Library of Birmingham may lose their jobs because of budget cuts.

Delegates also experienced a variety of types of sessions, including traditional presentations about big data, heavy metal studies, and the Royal College of Organists Library and Archive; quick fire presentations (15 minutes) about sourcing accessible sheet music, success with events, promoting your library, studying librarianship, and using Pinterest; a panel discussion about the impact of digital technologies on music provision; presentations from exhibitors; and report and information sessions about a wide range of topics and projects.

The ASW continued in the new format started in 2014, with the Public Library and Academic Library Annual Seminars on Friday afternoon and the ASW proper running from Friday evening until Sunday lunchtime. This enabled the cost of attending the ASW to be kept the same as the previous year and hopefully enabled and encouraged more people to attend.



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Delegates also had the opportunity to attend the optional visits to the Elgar Birthplace Museum and Visitor Centre and The Hive immediately before and after the ASW.

It was encouraging to see several young people at the ASW who are already involved in the work of the Branch or who completed a volunteer form.

Next year's ASW will be held at the Chancellors Hotel, Fallowfield, University of Manchester, 1-3 April 2016.

Education

The Courses and Education Committee successfully ran all of its courses during the year. In addition they ran a very popular new course on *RDA for Music Cataloguing* presented by staff from the British Library, and they organised a visit to the Surrey Performing Arts Library.

The courses run by this committee are: *Managing Music Collections*, *Music for the Terrified*, *Success with Music Interlibrary Loans*, and *Virtuoso Skills for Music Enquiries*.

Advocacy

Making Music (the principal organisation for amateur choirs and orchestras in the UK) gave substantial support to music libraries under review throughout the year. In addition to submitting evidence to various organisations about the importance of these libraries to their members, they have also been alerting the media, attending meetings, and encouraging their members to lobby and participate in consultations. They also published an article about the importance of interlibrary loans in the Spring 2014 edition of their *Highnotes* magazine.

Another article about the importance of music libraries and interlibrary loans was published in *Classical Music* magazine in June 2014, and the February 2015 issue of *CILIP Update*



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contained a feature on the very successful exhibition programme at the Barbican Music Library in London.

It was really wonderful that BBC Radio 6 Music celebrated music libraries for two weeks in November 2014 and made a special effort to mark the reopening of the newly refurbished Manchester Central Library together with Radio 3. The broadcasts featured members of the Branch and articles about it appeared in *CILIP Update* and other publications.

The Branch also submitted evidence about the value of music libraries to the Sieghart Review of Public Libraries commissioned by the UK government, and to the working group developing the National Strategy for Scottish Public Libraries.

The Music Libraries Trust

The Music Libraries Trust was able to award bursaries to ten people to attend the ASW thanks to generous sponsorship from the Trust itself and Alexander Street Press, Cramer Music, Oxford University Press, and The Staypar Charitable Trust. The recipients all really enjoyed the weekend and will submit reports which will be published in the *Newsletter* of IAML (UK & Irl).

The Trust also awarded a bursary from the Ian Ledsham Bursary Fund, which enabled Karen McAulay to attend the international conference in Antwerp and give a presentation entitled, *From Historical Collection to Metadata: A Case Study in Scottish Musical Inheritance*. The paper appeared in *Brio* (51/2) and will be published in the 2015:1 issue of *Fontes Artis Musicae*.

Diamond Jubilee

Our celebrations came to end at the ASW in Cambridge in 2014, but the Branch was delighted that Oxford University Press included a performance of the piece it commissioned to mark its Jubilee



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(*Orpheus with his lute* by Howard Skempton) on its 2014 Choral Highlights CD, which is also available as a download. It was also heartening to hear that the publisher is pleased with the sales of the piece.

Publications

Two editions of *Brio* were published in 2014.

Vol. 51, No. 1 (Spring/Summer) contained further reminiscences of the past 60 years of the Branch in addition to articles about the Forgotten Zine Archive in Dublin, Handel, and Byrd. It also contained an article about dating printed music by Catherine Small, who received research funding from the Music Libraries Trust.

Vol. 51, No. 2 (Autumn/Winter 2014) contained articles about Henry Watson and the Black Bear Inn Music Club in Cambridge, and reproduced the paper given by Karen McAulay in Antwerp.

Our *Newsletter* was published three times over the year and is available on the website of the Branch (www.iaml-uk-irl.org). In addition to containing many interesting articles, it also contained information about the exciting projects happening at the Westminster Music Library; reports about the seminars and the conference in Antwerp; information about events; and brief reports about the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Projects

The new websites and databases of Cecilia (www.cecilia-uk.org) and the Concert Programmes Project (www.concertprogrammes.org.uk) were launched at the ASW in Birmingham following 12 months of work funded by IAML (UK & Irl), the Music Libraries Trust, and a generous donation.



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Users searching for information about music and programme note collections in the UK and Ireland will now find redeveloped interfaces, more sophisticated search functionality, and social sharing opportunities. Both services now have a map showing the locations of the holding institutions and they are each compatible with smartphones.

Encore (www.peri.co.uk/encore.htm), our online database of performance sets, has also benefited from funding from the Branch and the Music Libraries Trust. This has enabled Ceri Mann to continue to make substantial updates to the database. Malcolm Jones has also been correcting format and coding errors in addition to de-duplicating entries. The Executive Committee has decided that the work of the Encore Working Group should be taken over by the Documentation Committee and the latter has been asked to provide a report by October 2015 on the future of Encore.

Social Media

The Branch continues to have a Twitter and Flickr account and a blog. It has been good to see more entries recently on the latter which have highlighted much of the good work going on in music libraries in the UK and Ireland.

RISM

Although RISM (UK) does not have any direct sources of funding, nonetheless it has been possible to undertake some very useful activity which makes use of RISM data. In January 2014, the British Library started its 15-month Big Data project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), which used data from three RISM catalogues (A/I, A/II and B/I), together with data from four other catalogues (the British Library's catalogues of printed and manuscript music,



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the RISM UK Music Manuscripts Database, and the Concert Programmes Database), to address a number of research questions, such as transmission of repertory, identification of minor composers outside the usual canon, and fragmentation of publication centres as printing techniques developed and became more widespread. We also participated in discussions with the Frankfurt office and colleagues in RISM Switzerland over the development of the new cataloguing system which is being developed for all of the national RISM groups. But the challenge for RISM (UK) remains to identify funding that would permit more direct RISM activity in the UK to take place; collaboration with other RISM groups to achieve this would be very welcome.

RILM

This year the main activity has been ensuring the regular supply of bibliographical records from the British Library to the central New York Office.

Prizes

The E.T. Bryant Prize for a significant contribution to the literature of music librarianship was awarded jointly to Julija Paskova for her dissertation, *RDA Implementation in Music Libraries in the UK: Reality or Future?* (University College London, 2014) and Diana Wood for her dissertation, *The Music Collections of Cambridge University: An Investigation Into Perceptions of the Value of User-Generated Content in a Special Collections Catalogue* (Aberystwyth University, 2014).

The C.B. Oldman Prize 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



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awarded to Christopher Kent for his book, *Edward Elgar: A Thematic Catalogue and Research Guide*. 2nd edition. New York and London: Routledge, 2013. ISBN 9780415875578.

Membership (December 2014)

The UK and Ireland Branch has 197 members, of which 93 are institutional (49 national, 44 international) and 104 are personal (54 national, 50 international). This is an increase of 5 in comparison with the previous year.

Obituaries

It is with regret that we note the death of Anthea Baird, long-time music librarian at the Senate House, University of London, who was highly regarded for the help she gave to researchers and colleagues; Derek Bell, the last Music Librarian for Bradford Libraries; Tony Lynes, the embodiment of the Community and Youth Music Library in London for over 25 years; and Oliver ('Tim') Neighbour, former Music Librarian of the British Library and noted scholar and collector, who was involved in IAML since its early days, was still around to help us celebrate our 60th anniversary, and whose legacy lives on at the Library.

Peter Baxter
President, IAML (UK & Ireland)