



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 & Ireland, report 2003

This year has been another busy one for the UK & Ireland branch.

We held our Annual Study Weekend at Trinity College, Dublin, in June, and if our experience of Dublin is anything to go by, the International Conference to be held there in 2011 should be a splendid occasion.

Our Courses and Education Committee has gone from strength to strength under the chairmanship of Liz Hart; she stepped down in June after having transformed the work of that committee. We now have well-established – and well-attended – courses for a wide range of needs, from such as those for non-musicians who find themselves looking after a music collection, to the interlending of choral and orchestral music, and advanced reference sources.

The UK & Ireland contribution to RISM was enhanced by the news that a funding bid was successful to enable coverage of holdings in cathedrals and private collections. Another successful funding bid was for a three-year project to create an online database of collection descriptions of concert programmes in the UK & Ireland; Rupert Ridgewell is the project's manager and will speak more about this later in the week.

Cecilia: our project to create a database of collection level descriptions of music holdings is now hosted by Cornucopia, a website maintained by the UK Government's Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

I didn't know, until I read the Branch's Annual Report for 2003, that our Branch Library – housed at Oxford University Music Faculty Library, and administered by John Wagstaff – is unique to the UK & Ireland Branch. I've certainly found it very useful to know that this collection exists, and, while it's nice to think that we have something unique, perhaps other branches might consider forming their own libraries.

The Branch website has been redesigned (we're very grateful to Chris Banks for this), and now contains a section of links to useful sites dealing with music provision for people with disabilities, courtesy of Ruth Hellen and Roger Firman.

Like the International Association we have also been looking at the structure of our Branch and methods by which we may encourage new volunteers. What prompted this? Perhaps it's something to do with turning 50 years old.

I'd like to finish by paying tribute to Susi Woodhouse, our Immediate Past President. Not only has she answered my many and ridiculous questions very patiently, but she gave me all of the Presidential files on just one CD, no boxes of paper, just one CD, which is something to which I shall aspire.



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Kathy Adamson

President, IAML (UK & Ireland)