



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 2007

In December 2006, we were sad to learn of the death, aged 84, of Brian Redfern - one of the outstanding music librarians of his generation. Brian was a prominent figure in IAML, serving terms as President of both the Branch and the International Association, and obituaries appear in *Fontes* and IAML Newsletter no. 25

In May the Branch organised a second Public Music Librarians' Seminar, which looks set to become an annual event like the Academic Music Librarians' Seminar, which has been running for many years. These seminars have turned out to be a very good way of making contact with librarians we would not normally meet, because music is only a part of their work and they don't think of joining IAML, let alone come to study weekends. Yet with specialist music posts still reducing in number – more have been cut this year – it is these people who in many cases have the responsibility of maintaining the music library service, and they need our support. *First Stop for Music*, a collection of basic information sheets, is now posted on the Branch website as a free download, and courses such as *Music for the Terrified*, *Virtuoso Skills for Music Enquiries*, and *40 Copies of Messiah* (covering the management of performance sets) continue to attract good attendances.

The Branch has worked harder than ever this year to raise the profile of music librarianship within the profession and beyond. Sometimes it's an uphill struggle. The BBC recently ran a television series called 'Play it again', encouraging people to learn an instrument, and it took an awful lot of e-mails before a reasonably decent link to music library resources was included on the accompanying website. By contrast, a representative from the Branch now regularly attends the meetings of Conarls, a co-operative providing strategic and operational support for library resource discovery and sharing, and it's good to see Conarls acknowledging on its website that it works closely with other bodies such as [IAML \(UK & Irl\) \(link is external\)](#).

Kathy Adamson came to the end of her term as President in April, and we're grateful for her always good-humoured but astute management of affairs over the last three years. In her final Presidential Report she mentions the amount of time spent on responding to various governmental calls for evidence, which this year included a parliamentary enquiry into caring for collections, the British Library Content Strategy, and the National Library of Ireland Strategic Plan where we emphasised the need to appoint a qualified music librarian. Most recently we have responded to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's draft initiative for public libraries 2008-2011, and sent them feedback from the Public Music Librarians' Seminar to inform their proposed statement regarding the value of access to recorded music in libraries.

At the April 2007 AGM we awarded Honorary Membership to two distinguished members of the Branch, Roger Taylor and Ruth Hellen, in recognition of their enormous contribution to its work over many years, not least in the field of outreach.



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Finally Antony Gordon, known to most of us as Ag, stepped down as chair of the Conference Committee after many years spearheading the organisation of our Annual Study Weekends. But he remains chair of the Dublin Planning Committee, and 24–29 July 2011 is when we look forward to welcoming IAML to that fair city.

Membership (December 2006): 248, of which 121 were institutional (53 national, 68 international) and 127 personal (69 national, 58 international)

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*Liz Hart*

*IAML (UK and Ireland)*