



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 2008

Activities have continued at their usual level this year, with a well-attended Annual Study Weekend in Canterbury, visits to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and to the new facilities of the British Library Sound Archive, and two annual seminars for librarians working with music in public and academic libraries respectively. These attract good attendances from non-members and hopefully raise the Branch profile within the profession.

Education still features strongly as we try to compensate for the lack of music library training in the country. We have an hour-long presentation to library and information students called *Managing a music collection in the 21st century*, and this was given at universities in Dublin, Liverpool, London, Loughborough, Manchester, Sheffield, and Strathclyde. And a new course on music cataloguing joined our portfolio of courses, which also include *Music Inter-Lending*, and *Virtuoso Skills for Music Enquiries*. We were particularly delighted to achieve a long-held ambition to offer the basic music course *Music for the Terrified* in Ireland, where we ran it twice – in Dublin and Cork – with the support of the Irish Library Council.

The creation in 2002 of the joint United Kingdom and Ireland Branch owed much to the advocacy of the then President Susi Woodhouse, and at the Annual General Meeting this April we made formal recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Branch by awarding her its Honorary Membership.

We continue to be concerned about cuts to music library services, in particular this year where they threaten to affect the loan of music sets to choirs and orchestras, and, in fact, the issue of facilitating music interlibrary lending generally is an increasingly hot topic. Another, and we share this with many national branches, is the future of CDs and other audiovisual materials in public libraries, including the whole question of digital lending. This is a delicate area, and we are fortunate in having the support of a government agency and our national library association CILIP (The **Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals**), in seeking to negotiate a new and constructive relationship with the music industry.

Twenty-five years ago, a former President, John May, had the vision to found the Music Libraries Trust, which works in conjunction with the Branch, supporting with financial awards the education and training of music librarians, and also research into music librarianship. This year saw the fruition of work initiated by the Trust with the launch of the Concert Programmes Project Online Database, which offers unprecedented access to collections of programmes scattered far and wide across the UK and Ireland. Finally, the Branch itself initiated a new award this year, with the establishment of the Ian Ledsham Bursary Fund to commemorate a much respected former member of IAML(UK and Ireland), an educator who saw that the IAML international conferences have great potential for professional development. So the fund in his name provides support to enable deserving members to attend, and the first recipients are among the participants in Napoli in 2008.



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Membership (December 2007): 231, of which 109 were institutional (60 national, 49 international) and 122 personal (78 national, 44 international). Publications: *Brio*; ed. Rupert Ridgewell; *Newsletter*; ed. Alison Hall (both two issues p.a.). Web site: www.iaml-uk-irl.org ([link is external](#)); webmaster Antony Gordon

Liz Hart

President - IAML (UK and Ireland)