



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 2009

Our membership rose slightly in 2008, but we think numbers will be down slightly this year, and fear they may fall further in the future. A small stand-alone subscription like ours is an easy target when savings are to be made, and membership is less likely to be renewed once a dedicated music department is closed or a specialist post deleted. A long-term survey of advertisements for music library positions reveals that they have halved over the last five years. Despite this, much splendid work is achieved within the diverse music library community of the UK and Ireland, and in April we launched our new Excellence Award for Music Libraries to highlight and celebrate it. It's open to all music libraries no matter what their sector, size, or type, and the submissions will be judged by a panel of experts from the music industry chaired by Professor John Tyrrell, Honorary Professor at Cardiff University School of Music. We expect that the first awards will be made in spring 2010.

In these difficult economic times, we are concerned to ensure the sustainability of the many online projects the Branch has initiated over the years. The initial funding for the heavily-used *Encore!* union catalogue of sets of performance music in UK libraries ran out a long time ago, but a little more became available recently, enabling the addition of a significant number of library holdings and de-duplication of records. Then came news that the server hosting both the evolving *Concert Programmes* database, and *Cecilia*, our online guide to music collections, was due to be switched off, but we hope that the data can be migrated to a proposed new Culture Grid funded by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council, with potential for development and at least some sustainability. The contents lists for our journal *Brio* from the Spring/Summer 2007 issue onwards are now available online on the Branch's website.

Copyright issues have taken up much of our time this year, and we have joined with others in the library and information profession in making the strongest representations against draft legislation which would shift the balance unjustifiably towards rights holders, particularly the proposal to extend the term of protection for sound recordings to 95 years, which the European Parliament has nonetheless voted through. Sadly, with the deletion of the CILIP post with special responsibility for intellectual property issues, we have lost in the UK a crucial advocate for library interests at a time when the rights of users appear ever more vulnerable.

The Branch's 2009 Annual Study Weekend took place in Edinburgh, with presentations on new resources, Scottish music, library buildings and Haydn, and professional updates on a range of topics in the popular 'Report and information' sessions. We have continued to run a full programme of courses and seminars, and as well as music librarianship presentations to students we organised an new introductory session on music cataloguing at University College London – possibly a foot in the door for re-introducing some formal music library education into library and information departments.

Additionally we have been delighted to co-operate with the Hungarian National Branch in a joint programme to study music library education in each of our countries and share best practice.



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This was achieved through the sterling work of HNB's President Julianna Góczy in obtaining a subsidy from the Hungarian National Civil Fund, and this May for the first part of the programme she and Marianna Zsoldos came to the UK to attend the Academic Music Librarians' seminar, meet with our Education Officer Amelie Roper, and tour several major music libraries in London and Birmingham. A reciprocal visit of UK music librarians to Budapest and Eger is planned for 2010.

Finally work has really begun in earnest on planning the 2011 IAML International Conference at Trinity College Dublin, with much of the organisation in place and some splendid concerts and excursions in prospect too. Dublin is a wonderful city to visit, so make a note in your diaries now for 24-29 July 2011!

Membership (December 2008): 244, of which 116 were institutional (65 national, 51 international) and 128 personal (77 national, 51 international)

Publications: *Brio*; ed. Rupert Ridgewell; *Newsletter*; ed. Alison Hall (both two issues p.a.)

Web site: [www.iaml-uk-irl.org](http://www.iaml-uk-irl.org); webmaster Antony Gordon

Excellence Award for Music Libraries: [www.iaml-uk-irl.org/awards.html](http://www.iaml-uk-irl.org/awards.html)

*Liz Hart*

*President, IAML (UK and Ireland)*