

United Kingdom & Ireland, report 2013

Executive Committee

Branch President - Peter Baxter (Surrey Performing Arts Library); Immediate Past President - Richard Chesser (British Library); General Secretary - Catherine Ferris (Dublin Institute of Technology), Treasurer – Monika Pietras (Royal College of Music); Education Officer – Geoff Thomason (Royal Northern College of Music); Membership Secretary – Nick Barlow; Outreach Officer – Frances Metcalfe (Kent Libraries); Press and PR Officer – Peter Linnitt (Royal College of Music). Publication editors: *Brio*, ed. Katharine Hogg (Gerald Coke Handel Collection); *Newsletter*, ed. Anna Pensaert (University of Cambridge).

It was a great honour for me to take over from Richard Chesser as President of the United Kingdom and Ireland branch at our Annual Study Weekend in Leeds in April 2013 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work over the past three years. He has already given me a lot of very valuable advice and support, and it is good to know that he will remain on our Executive Committee as Immediate Past President for the next three years.

There have been three meetings of the Executive Committee during the year (October, January, April). In January, we said goodbye to Claire Kidwell and Liz Hart who served the branch so well as treasurer and immediate past president respectively, and in April we welcomed Monika Pietras as our new Treasurer and Frances Metcalfe as Outreach Officer. We would really like to develop our outreach work and I am very grateful to Frances for volunteering to take on this role. It was also good to welcome Ruth Walters of the Westminster Music Library as an elected member of the committee and Rebecca Nye from the newly-established Yorkshire Music Library as our new Minutes Secretary.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers of the branch and all the members of the committees and working groups, without whom we would not be able to sustain all the very valuable work we do supporting the music libraries and staff who work with music materials throughout the UK and Ireland.

Annual Study Weekend (ASW)

A lot of the delegates who attended our Annual Study Weekend in Leeds in April 2013 said it was one of the best ever organised by the branch. This was due to the superb work of our Conference Committee, the large number and variety of presentations, the well-managed conference centre (Weetwood Hall) and the quality of the food. The weekend included lots of updates about activities and projects together with presentations about the importance of music libraries to voluntary and amateur groups; music rights for the stage; resource discovery; Percy Scholes and the Oxford Companion to Music; the Britten Pears Foundation; the Holst Birthplace

Museum; the Yorkshire Music Library; and the Community and Youth Music Library in London. It was particularly good to have presentations from representatives from Making Music and the National Operatic and Dramatic Society, charities who support amateur groups throughout the country.

For the first time, the annual Public Libraries Seminar was held at the same venue immediately prior to the ASW and attracted 28 delegates. The idea of holding it at the same time was to attract more people to attend the ASW and 14 people did stay for the whole weekend. The 2014 ASW will also include the Academic Librarians Seminar, which was held at the Birmingham Conservatoire in May this year and was a great success.

We were particularly pleased that our associated Music Libraries Trust was able to award bursaries to eight people to attend the ASW. The Trust has also taken over the administration of the Ian Ledsham Bursary Fund, which offers financial support each year to a Branch member who wishes to attend IAML's international conference.

Diamond Jubilee

We launched our celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the branch with a reception at the ASW followed by a talk about the history of the branch by Susi Woodhouse (Past Branch President 2001-2004) and greetings from IAML from Kathy Adamson (IAML Treasurer and Past Branch President 2004-2007). A similar reception will be held at the ASW in Cambridge in 2014 to mark the end of our jubilee year.

In between, we are planning to hold or be associated with a number of events all around the UK and Ireland. The first event we were honoured to be associated with was an incredibly successful conference on *The Symphony and Ireland*, which was organised by Catherine Ferris and featured on national television in Ireland.

We are also planning to attend and give presentations at some of the conferences of various music organisations, such as Making Music and the Association of British Choral Conductors; have articles published in various music magazines; have features on radio programmes; organise a Music Libraries Day/Week; create a YouTube video promoting music libraries; re-open the IAML(UK & Irl) Library; publish a special Diamond Jubilee issue of *Brio* this autumn; and publish a booklet promoting the work of music libraries throughout the UK.

Our principal reception is going to be held on the evening of 22 October at the Foundling Museum (60 years after the first general meeting of the branch) and will include an opportunity to hear the first performance of a specially commissioned choral piece by Howard Skempton, which will be performed by the Royal College of Music Chamber Choir and published by Oxford University Press.

Advocacy/Strategic Plan

The Advocacy Committee worked hard over the past year to compile a Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 for the branch, which can now be downloaded from our website. This committee is now chaired by Pam Thompson, who gave presentations at various meetings over the past year, looked at the work of other branches/organisations, gathered a lot of information, and compiled the plan. This is an incredibly useful document which will help steer the work of the branch over the next five years and ensure we continue to make a significant contribution to the music library community.

Publications

As Richard Chesser mentioned last year, our *Newsletter* is now published electronically and from 2013 it will be published three times a year (February, June and October) and will contain more news.

We are proud of all our editions of *Brio*, but it is perhaps worth particularly mentioning the Autumn/Winter 2012 edition (Vol.49/2) which marked the 10th anniversary of the Joint UK and Ireland branch with an Irish theme and colour!

Projects

All our current projects (Cecilia, Concert Programmes Project and Encore!) continue to flourish and help users find the information they want. Cecilia (our online database of music collections) attracted c. 25,000 visits per month from people using it for all sorts of purposes from academic research to family history; the Concert Programmes Project attracted users from 114 countries and 87,709 hits; and Encore! continues to be invaluable to library staff who are supplying music to choirs and orchestras. Work is continuing to list even more collections and holdings on Encore! and continue to de-duplicate entries.

The Documentation Committee worked with the Music Libraries Trust (MLT) to update its list of potential future projects, which is available on the MLT website. <http://www.iaml.info/iaml-uk-irl/mlt/>

Social Media

Antony Gordon continues to maintain our website, but has stepped down as convener of the Website Working Group. Consequently, we are currently looking for someone who can lead that Group, which we hope will soon oversee the creation of a new website and our further use of aspects of social media.

RISM

There is no active RISM (UK) cataloguing projects at the moment due to lack of funding, but we were delighted to see the launch this year of the Irish RISM website (<http://www.rism-ie.org>), based on the system developed jointly with colleagues in Switzerland. We continue to work closely with the Zentralredaktion in Frankfurt too.

RILM

RILM (UK) has also some challenges, as further sources of funding are being sought, but we still manage to submit abstracts and citations to the central office in New York. Recently, a meeting of music research associations met to discuss funding possibilities for RILM (UK), and it is hoped a successful outcome will emerge.

Copyright

The Music Publishers Association (MPA) recently published a revised Code of Fair Practice regarding the use of copyright music and we have agreed to continue to be signatories to the Code following consideration by our Trade & Copyright Committee. Claire Kidwell, the new chair of that committee, then circulated information to our members about the changes in the new Code and asked for feedback on any difficulties/issues.

Membership (December 2012)

210, of which 99 were institutional (53 national, 47 international) and 111 were personal (63 national, 48 international). This is reduction of 1 institutional/national member in comparison with the previous year. However, with the continuing recession and spending cuts the branch may lose more members and this matter is being given some thought by the Executive Committee.

Obituary

Peter Hinchcliffe, the founder of the Goldsmith Music Library in Leicester died on 5 March 2013, aged 81. He established this library in 1963 and oversaw its development into one of the most important public music libraries in the country, until he retired. One of the obituaries summed up the thoughts of many when it said, 'His courtesy, knowledge and professionalism were legendary, as was his sense of humour'.

Peter Baxter

President, IAML (UK and Ireland)