

United Kingdom and Ireland

Executive Committee

Officers: Branch President - Peter Baxter (Surrey Performing Arts Library); Immediate Past President - Richard Chesser (British Library); General Secretary - Catherine Ferris (Dublin Institute of Technology) [to October], Roy Stanley (Trinity College Dublin) [from November]; Treasurer – Monika Pietras (Royal College of Music); *Brio* Editor – Katharine Hogg; *Newsletter* Editor – Anna Pensaert (University of Cambridge); Education Officer – Geoff Thomason (Royal Northern College of Music); Membership Secretary – Nick Barlow; Outreach Officer – Frances Metcalfe (Kent Libraries) [to April], currently vacant; Press and PR Officer – Peter Linnitt (Royal College of Music); Publications Officer – Almut Boehme (National Library of Scotland).

The Executive Committee met four times during the year (July, October, January, April). Catherine Ferris stood down as General Secretary in October and everyone was very grateful when Roy Stanley volunteered to take on this role. Like Catherine, he is doing an excellent job in this critical role in the running of the Branch. Kathryn Adamson and Susi Woodhouse (both former Presidents of the Branch) also stood down from the Executive Committee in April 2014 after many years' service in various roles.

Karen McAulay has taken over as convener of the Website Working Group from Antony Gordon and Frances Metcalfe has taken over from Graham Muncy as chair of the Conference Committee.

Organisational Review

The Executive Committee has asked the Finance and Administration Committee to carry out an Organisational Review of the management of the Branch and its activities to ensure all the committees and working groups are appropriate for all the activities they undertake, and

work is done in a cost-effective manner. The Review is underway and is expected to be completed by 2015.

Annual Study Weekend (ASW)

Once again, our Annual Study Weekend held on 11-13 April 2013 at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge was a resounding success. As ever, this was due to the superb work of our Conference Committee, the large number and great variety of topics covered in presentations, the venue with its lovely gardens, and the excellent food.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Barbara Dobbs Mackenzie (IAML President) and Pia Shekter (IAML Secretary General) to the ASW and their presence, and very kind words, greatly contributed to the success of the conference. Barbara also presented the Branch with a bell from the Skultuna foundry in Sweden following the Annual Dinner and this was rung to mark the beginning of sessions at the ASW and at the following meeting of the Executive Committee.

The weekend included a lot of updates about activities and projects together with presentations about music education hubs; digital music trends and the British Library; music in Cambridge; promoting libraries' hidden collections, the importance of learner development, the effective use of social media, developing an active friends' group, forging partnerships with music societies, extending user engagement, the National Jazz Archive, Henry Watson, copyright reform, Ciro's Club during WW1, and fundraising and grant writing.

The ASW had a new format this year, starting with the Public Library and Academic Library Annual Seminars on Friday afternoon, visits to several music libraries in Cambridge on Saturday morning, the Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner on Saturday afternoon, and the whole weekend finishing at lunchtime on Sunday rather than Monday. The aim of these changes was to cut costs and make it more affordable; ensure the whole weekend was filled with interesting and educational presentations that might encourage

funding from employers; and, hopefully, attract new attendees. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new format and the Academic Library Seminar, in particular, had a much larger attendance than usual. Delegates also enjoyed the optional opportunities before and after the ASW to tour Cambridge and/or visit the The Red House in Aldeburgh, the home of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears.

Next year's ASW will be held at Aston University in Birmingham, 10-12 April 2014.

The Music Libraries Trust

The Music Libraries Trust was able to award bursaries to nine people to attend the ASW (although only eight people were able to attend) thanks to generous sponsorship from the Trust itself and the Academic Rights Press, Cramer Music, the Music Sales Charitable Trust, Oxford University Press, and The Staypar Charitable Trust. Among the recipients were several library school students who really enjoyed the conference and found it very worthwhile.

The Trust also awarded a bursary from the Ian Ledsham Bursary Fund, which enabled Loukia Drosopoulou to attend the international conference in Vienna and give a presentation about the Aylward Collection at Cardiff University.

Diamond Jubilee

The past year has largely been occupied with organising and running all the activities arranged to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Branch. These included a specially-commissioned logo and the talks at the 2013 ASW; the commissioning of a short choral piece by Howard Skempton called *Orpheus with his Lute*, which has now been published by Oxford University Press; badged talks and events all over the country where we proudly displayed our new banners; special editions of *Brio*; articles on our newly-established blog and our

Newsletter; a delicious President's lunch, which was attended by the current president and nine former presidents; and the first ever National Music Libraries Day on 8 February 2014.

However, the highlight of the year was the reception held at The Foundling Museum in central London on Tuesday, 22 October 2013. Guests gathered in the lobby for a drink before being ushered into the picture gallery to enjoy more wine and canapés, and hear speeches from Peter Baxter (President, IAML(UK and Ireland), Annie Mauger (Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals), and Peter Lawson (Chairman, Making Music). Then Howard Skempton gave a talk about his short choral piece, *Orpheus with his Lute*, which was then given its stunning first performance by Chantage (former winners of the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year Competition). A cake made by Geoff Thomason, and decorated with the Diamond Jubilee logo by Trudy Barlow, was then cut by Oliver Neighbour (former Music Librarian at the British Library and Honorary Member of the Branch) and Peter Baxter.

We were delighted to welcome Lena Nettelbladt from the Swedish Branch of IAML to the reception and equally delighted when she presented us with a gavel engraved with the letters 'IAML', which has subsequently been used at all the meetings of the Executive Committee.

A further performance of the piece by Howard Skempton was given at the ASW in Cambridge to mark the end of our Jubilee year and sets of thirty copies have now been sent by the Branch to ten libraries around the UK and Ireland to enable other choirs to enjoy the work.

Many members of the Branch will have special memories of our Diamond Jubilee year for many more years to come and thanks are due to everyone who contributed towards making it such a great success.

Publications

2013 marked the 50th year of the publication of *Brio* and two editions were published in 2013. Vol. 50, No. 2 (Autumn/Winter 2013) focused on the Diamond Jubilee and, in addition to several other interesting articles, contained an article by Susi Woodhouse about the founding fathers of IAML (UK and Ireland) and some reminiscences by luminaries of the Branch.

Our website now contains the contents list for the current edition of *Brio* and contents lists for volumes 1-43, which were compiled by Susi Woodhouse.

Our *Newsletter* was published three times over the year and contained many interesting articles in addition to news, advert and reviews.

Projects

Both the Branch and the Music Libraries Trust have awarded grants during the past year to all our current projects. These will enable Encore! to continue to incorporate updates and amendments from many libraries and make it possible for the Concert Programme and Cecilia databases and websites to be substantially developed and improved.

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 116 countries and 27,704 visits/ /year; and Encore! continues to be invaluable to library staff who are supplying music to choirs and orchestras.

Social Media

Karen McAulay has become the Convener of the Website Working Group and will be re-establishing the Group and working on completely redeveloping the website over the coming year. Meanwhile, Antony Gordon continues to maintain our existing website and supervise our email list.

The Branch set up a Twitter account, Facebook page, and blog over the past year. However, after receiving some advice and further consideration, it decided to close the Facebook page and redirect everyone to the main IAML Facebook page.

RISM

Once again there has been no new cataloguing activity this year, since we have no live funding, though we have continued to work closely with the Zentralredaktion on RISM matters. For example it was particularly pleasing that the cataloguing system initiated in the UK and subsequently developed by our RISM colleagues in Switzerland has been chosen to form the basis of the new system which will replace Kallisto. Another piece of RISM news was that Richard Chesser, the Chair of the RISM(UK) Trust, stood down as chair of the Coordinating Committee of RISM's Advisory Council.

RILM

RILM(UK) continues to face challenges, due to the difficulty in identifying sustainable funding to ensure that British musicology is appropriately represented in RILM's activities. This year, sadly, we had to say goodbye to Vassilis Vavoulis, who had been the mainstay of the UK effort for many years. Sincere thanks are due to him for what he has done virtually single-handed over a number of years. Richard Chesser, Sarah Hibberd, and Chris Banks are working on finding a successful outcome for the various financial and operational issues. Meanwhile, at least, a regular data feed to New York of bibliographic citations for UK monographs is now in place.

Excellence Award

The IAML (UK and Ireland) Excellence Awards have been presented every two years since 2010 and they acknowledge music libraries which demonstrate sustained good work and

good practice, and outstanding personal achievement by individuals. Fourteen libraries and four individuals were presented with Excellence Awards by Professor Jan Smazny of Queen's University, Belfast at the ASW in Cambridge in April 2014. Information about the recipients of the Award is available on the IAML(UK and Ireland) website.

Prizes

The E.T. Bryant Prize for a significant contribution to the literature of music librarianship was awarded to Dorothea Stawenow for her dissertation, *Digital Sheet Music – A Serious Alternative for Orchestral Performance?* (City University, London, 2013).

The C.B. Oldman Prize for an outstanding work of music bibliography, music reference, or music librarianship by an author resident in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland was awarded to Richard Turbet for his book, *William Byrd: A research and Information Guide*. 3rd edition. London: Routledge, 2012. ISBN 9780415875592.

Membership (December 2013)

The IAML (UK and Ireland) branch has 192 members, of which 93 are institutional (46 national, 47 international) and 99 are personal (52 national, 47 international). This is reduction of 18 members in comparison with the previous year, much of which is due to cuts in funding and staffing. This matter has been given some attention by the Executive Committee who plan to publicise the benefits of membership more widely and introduce further incentives to encourage more people to join.

Peter Baxter
President, IAML (UK and Ireland)