



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 States, report 2012

Board of Directors: Jerry McBride (president); Michael Colby (vice-president); Judy Tsou (IAML-US president, ex officio); Pamela Bristah (recording secretary); Linda Blair (administrative officer); Paul Cary (assistant administrative officer); Daniel Boomhower, Kirstin Dougan, Laurie Sampsel (members-at-large, 2011-2013); Paula Hickner, Steve Landstreet, Mark Scharf (members-at-large, 2012-2014). Membership: 128 individual members, 117 institutional members, 245 members total

Merger of MLA and IAML-US

The Music Library Association represented the United States for the first time as the United States branch at the 2011 IAML meeting in Dublin. The Articles of Merger for MLA and IAML-US were approved by the Corporations Division of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs of the District of Columbia on 25 June 2012, completing the merger process. MLA began accepting new IAML memberships and renewals for 2012 along with branch memberships in July 2011. Individual membership in IAML among US music librarians increased by over fifty members as a result. Tremendous credit is due the former IAML-US and MLA Presidents, Judy Tsou and Ruthann McTyre, for their foresight, conviction, and perseverance in making the merger a reality.

Strategic Plan

A task force to develop a strategic plan submitted its report in Spring 2011. The strategic plan was reviewed, and an implementation plan was drafted and submitted to the Board for comment. This plan included the formation of a strategic planning steering committee composed of members of the Board and members of MLA. The implementation plan gathered additional input from the membership through the establishment of six teams corresponding to each of the major areas identified in the plan.

Each Steering Committee member was responsible for one of the six major areas in the Strategic Plan (Organizational Excellence, Value of the Profession, Advocacy, Membership, Education, and Technology, with Membership clearly identified as a top priority) and formed a four-person team, drawn from members of related MLA committees, to create operational objectives for each goal area. The Steering Committee compiled the operational objectives which were posted on the MLA website, published in the MLA Newsletter, and presented to the membership at the conference in February 2012 for further comment. The formation of the teams, together with the opportunity for members to comment on the plan through the website and at the conference, insured wide participation by MLA members in shaping the plan. The goals and objectives were used as the basis of MLA's operations for FY 2012-13. Work continues on refining the



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operational plan under President-Elect Michael Colby especially in shaping the long-term goals of the Association.

Membership

The areas of membership and information technology were identified as high priority areas of the strategic plan. MLA has experienced a sharp decline in institutional membership and institutional subscriptions to Notes. Individual membership has also been steadily declining for the past ten years. This decline continued in 2011-12. Because of this and in light of the strategic plan, the Membership Committee was reinstated with Past-President Ruthann McTyre as chair, and the committee is now working on ways to retain and increase membership in both MLA and IAMLC.

Information Technology

The MLA information technology infrastructure is comprised of several disparate parts, mainly divided between its website and its business office. The strategic plan clearly identified the updating and integration of these systems as a high priority for MLA to fulfill its mission. A Technology Implementation Team was charged to write a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify a company that could work with MLA to identify the best course forward. The response to the RFP was not satisfactory, and a different direction was chosen. The decision was made to reorganize MLA's administration of its information technology by creating the position of Web Manager who will chair a Website Committee in 2012-13. In preparation for this change, the current Web Editors are working to identify a company to replace the current web hosting service for MLA's website that operates on an Ektron platform. The new company will be able to host MLA's website on Ektron, position the Association to migrate its data to another platform in the future, and to eventually integrate all of the various information technology systems.

Conferences

The 2012 MLA Annual Meeting was held in Dallas on 15-18 February with a registration of 392 member and 38 exhibitors. As is customary, the meeting was preceded by a two-day meeting of the Music OCLC User's Group. Three plenary sessions were held: "Jazz Collections and Performance Practice at the University of North Texas," "Wrangling the Information Universe: Moving from Institutional Portals to a Shared Resource for Online Music Sources," and "Get Involved in MLA." The last session allowed MLA members to meet with committee chairs to find out how to become committee members and it proved to be very popular. Among the other program sessions offered were: "Demystifying Fair Use: Best Practices and Music Libraries," "What It Is! Music Genre/Form and Medium of Performance Terms in the Future of Music Subject Access," "What Would Patrons Do? Information Seeking Behaviors in the Music Library," "Touching the Cloud: New Tools to Discover," "An Open-Source Solution for



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Audiovisual E-Reserves and Class Websites,” “Generation What? Keeping Music Librarianship Education Relevant in an Age of Change,” “ Lending and Borrowing Media materials: What Are the Practices of Music libraries and How Can We Work Together,” “Musical Theater: Jewish Audience and Influence,” “Applications of the Music Encoding Initiative,” “Incorporating Active Learning Techniques in Library Instruction,” “RDA and Linked Data: Moving Beyond the Rules,” “Managing Your Music Citations,” “An ACRL Normative-Based Benchmark Music Collection Analysis for NASM Accreditation,” and “Music Museums: So Many Shapes and Sizes!”

Future conferences will be held 27 February -2 March 2013 in San Jose, California; 26 February -1 March 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia; and 25-28 February 2015 in Denver, Colorado. The San Jose conference will include a pre-conference workshop on 26 February entitled “Hit the Ground Running! RDA Training for Music Catalogers.”

Publications

MLA publishes three periodicals: the quarterly journal, *Notes*; the quarterly *Newsletter* and the monthly *Music Cataloging Bulletin*. The journal and newsletter are available as a benefit of membership, and all three publications are available by subscription. It also publishes three monographic series. This year *An Index to Articles in The Etude Magazine, 1883-1957* by Pamela R. Dennis was published as no. 37 in the Index and Bibliography Series, and *Directions in Music Cataloging*, edited by Peter H. Lisius and Richard Griscom was published as no. 32 in the Technical Reports Series. The Publications Committee is embarking on an extensive review of the MLA publications program in the course of the coming year focusing primarily on the monographic series and the structure of the committee.

Awards

MLA presents awards and grants annually to foster excellence in publication and research and to further professional development. In 2012, the Vincent H. Duckles Award for the best book-length bibliography or other research tool in music was awarded to Christophe Grabowski and John Rink for their book *The Annotated Catalogue of Chopin's First Editions* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). The **Eva Judd O'Meara Award** for the best review published in *Notes* was awarded to Pieter Mannaerts for his review of *The Critical Nexus: Tone-system, Mode, and Notation in Early Medieval Music*, by Charles M. Atkinson in *Notes* 66:3 (March 2010), 549-551. The Richard S. Hill Award for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature was awarded to Kate van Orden and Alfredo Vitolo, “Padre Martini, Gaetano Gaspari and the ‘Pagliarini Collection’: A Renaissance Music Library Rediscovered,” *Early Music History* 29 (2010): 241-324.



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The following research grants were awarded. The Carol June Bradley Award supports studies that deal with the history of music libraries or special collections. The 2012 award goes to Jim Carrier, to support research trips for his documentary film, *The Librarian and the Banjo* on University of Chicago music librarian Dena Epstein's journey of discovery to uncover the lost history of black music in America. The **Dena Epstein Award** supports research in archives or libraries internationally on any aspect of American music. This year's recipient was Mark Burford in support of research for the article entitled "Mahalia Jackson and the Jazz Tradition" and for a larger project on the circulation of black gospel singing in U.S. popular culture from the 1950s to the mid-1960s. The **Walter Gerboth Award** is for members of MLA who are in the first five years of their professional library careers to assist research-in-progress in music or music librarianship. Dr. Bonnie Fleming received this year's award to further her research toward the completion of a biography on arts patron Betty Freeman.

MLA also awards travel grants to encourage attendance and involvement at MLA and IAML conferences. Kirstin Dougan from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, was awarded the Lenore F. Coral IAML Travel Grant in support of travel and conference fees to attend the annual IAML meeting in 2012 in Montreal. The grant is usually offered biennially and is open to all MLA members who are also members of IAML, with priority given to members attending their first or second IAML conference and who have not received the award in a previous year. The Kevin Freeman Travel Grant is awarded to students, recent graduates, or other colleagues who are new to the profession to support attendance at MLA annual meetings. For the 2012 meeting in Dallas, Texas, the Freeman recipients were Sonia Archer-Capuzzo, Sofia Becerra-Licha, Victoria Chu, Stephanie Lewin-Lane, and Pamela Pagels.

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, MLA presented Dr. Knut Dorn with a resolution of the Board of Directors honoring Dr. Dorn upon his retirement from Otto Harrassowitz and for his extraordinary career that influenced many music librarians in the United States.

Committees

Much of the work of MLA is done through its 26 committees, 10 subcommittees, 3 joint committees, and 20 round tables. The Music Librarianship Educators' Round Table coordinated by John Wagstaff was established this year as a forum for the discussion of issues by those engaged in teaching courses in music librarianship. The Educational Outreach Program was formally established as a subcommittee under the Education Committee now that the program has matured. The Program provides instruction on music librarianship to librarians outside of MLA primarily to non-music specialists, support staff, and library students through workshops and other sessions. The subcommittee is working on developing virtual workshops to increase the availability of these educational sessions via the web. The Education Committee updated the



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Library School Directory, 9th ed. on the MLA website
(<http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/employment.aspx?id=77>).

It is not possible to recount all of the activities of the committees in the space provided, so only some of the major projects and efforts will be mentioned here. The Bibliographic Control Committee is the largest and one of the most active committees and is comprised of five subcommittees: Authorities, Descriptive Cataloging, MARC Formats, Metadata, and Subject Access. The Committee has been especially active in work on RDA implementation and has formed two task forces to advance this work. The RDA Music Implementation Task Force will monitor the progress of RDA and create music-related best practices documentation to supplement it. The RDA Music Revisions Facilitation Task Force is a joint committee formed with the Library of Congress, the American Library Association, the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, and the Canadian Committee on Cataloging. This task force will monitor and make recommendations on RDA issues related to music as they are identified by North American Joint Steering Committee constituencies.

In addition to RDA, the BCC Genre/Form Task Force is reviewing genre/form and medium of performance lists posted by the Library of Congress. The committee submitted two proposals to MARBI, one on field 382 for medium of performance and another on field 383 for identifying the source of thematic index numbers, both of which were approved for adoption. The document, *Thematic Indexes Used in the LC/NACO Authority File*, was completed and is now on the MLA website (http://bcc.musiclibraryassoc.org/BCC-Historical/BCC2011/Thematic_Indexes.htm). The decision made at the June meeting of the American Library Association to dissolve MARBI in 2013 will have far reaching effects for all libraries and impact the organization and work of the BCC.

The work of the Legislation Committee earlier in the year bore fruit in a report from the U.S. Copyright Office, which recommended bringing pre-1972 sound recordings under federal copyright law, as the MLA had requested. If Congress acts on this recommendation, it will have a significant positive effect for music libraries. MLA officially adopted the ARL Code of Best Practices for Fair Use, which clarifies many of the practical aspects of the fair use portion of the copyright code. In October, MLA joined as a signatory to the *amicus* brief written for the Conductors' Guild in the case of Golan vs. Holder before the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the position of Lawrence Golan concerning Section 514 of the Uruguay Round Table Agreements Act of 1994 that amended the U.S. Copyright Act, and thus removed many landmark works of twentieth-century music from the public domain in the US. Unfortunately, the Court did not rule in favor of Golan.



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The Emerging Technologies Committee completed the Music Discovery Requirements document to facilitate the development of improved discovery interfaces for music materials. The committee is now working on preparing the document for publication probably as an electronic book. The work of many committees resulted in program sessions at the conference and other projects.

Special Task Forces

Some topics fall outside of the scope of the committee structure, and task forces have been established to address them. Libraries are currently unable to acquire commercially published digital audio files legally. The Digital Audio Proposal Task Force was charged to develop a grant proposal to convene a summit of nationally-representative experts for the purpose of visioning the requirements for a database for systems through which libraries can legally acquire, preserve, and provide access to digital audio files.

In the aftermath of the economic recession of 2008, a number of music branch libraries have closed or been targeted for closing. The Branch Libraries Task Force was established to investigate the problems and strategies of centralizing versus decentralizing academic music collections, from small liberal arts colleges through large research institutions, including an exhaustive literature search, collecting anecdotal evidence of MLA members who have faced the problem, and collecting information and data on music collections that have been centralized or decentralized. Its first report was issued in January 2012 (<http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/about.aspx?id=1118>). A follow-up report will be forthcoming in 2013.

The MLA Archives are housed at the University of Maryland, College Park, and hold eighty-one years of the organization's history. MLA recognized that much more attention needed to be devoted to its own history and documents. A task force to recommend how to improve MLA's archival practices submitted its report in 2010-11 and recommended a more thorough study of archival practices. The Archives Policies Task Force submitted an exhaustive report in February 2012 outlining the functions of the MLA Archives and recommending the establishment of an MLA Archivist.

MLA/ARL diversity scholarship

MLA and the Association of Research Libraries received a three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide scholarships for 15 library school students from traditionally underrepresented racial/ethnic minority groups in the field of music librarianship. The students will attend library schools for up to two years and receive a paid internship for up to four semesters in a music or performing arts library. This program addresses a long-standing need in music libraries in the US to encourage and train talented librarians who may otherwise



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be unable to enter the profession. Three students applied for the first year of this grant. Efforts are underway to publicize the scholarships more widely so that the target of five applicants per year will be achieved.

Website Advertising

The decline in membership has had a fiscal impact on MLA, and new ways of raising revenue are being explored. The MLA Advertising Manager proposed adding advertising to the MLA website and *Newsletter*. After careful deliberation, it was decided to adopt the proposal beginning July 2012.

MLA Board Operations

Over the course of the year, the MLA Board experimented with the use of video conferencing with the goal of supplanting in-person meetings with online meetings. This proved more challenging than expected. The thirteen-member Board was too large to take advantage of some of the no-cost video conferencing software available on the web and adopted Adobe Connect. A series of monthly meetings were held as we learned to use this technology with increasing success. While the technology works well for smaller groups, there were numerous technological problems with a group of this size. After a year of experimentation, two fully successful meetings were held, and video conferencing will be used for short Board meetings and meetings of the Board's Finance and Planning Committees throughout the coming year.

The strategic plan called for greater transparency in Board meetings and decision making. Board meetings have always been open to the general membership, but the Board drafted a set of Open Meeting Guidelines to increase and insure greater communication with the membership. The policy is available on the MLA website: <http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/about.aspx?id=104>. The minutes of the Board meeting are also circulated to the membership via the MLA-L listserv.

This has been an active, productive, and challenging year for MLA. Our financial position is sound and has allowed us to deal with difficult recent economic conditions. The association is in a strong position with a committed core of dedicated members. The Strategic Plan lays the ground work for us to face the challenges of a rapidly changing profession and society. It has strong representation in important library organizations through its liaison program, at important national bibliographic committees, in the national legislative arena, and now as the United States branch of IAML. We look forward to the challenges that lay ahead and along with our colleagues in other countries to contributing toward the improvement of music libraries in the world.

Jerry McBride

President, Music Library Association, IAML (US)