

Australia

Submitted by Julia Child, University of Sydney Library

National board members

Not applicable

Board meetings held during the year

Not applicable

Annual branch meetings

None

Branch membership figures

As of the end of the 2023 year, there were 17 members: 7 individual and 10 institutional.

As of June 2024, there are 13 members: 7 individual and 6 institutional.

Branch constitutional matters:

At the end of 2023 IAML Australia dissolved as a formal registered entity of the 'Association'. The hope was that without substantial administrative burdens brought about by running an association more volunteers would be willing to come forward to sustain a less formal network. A volunteer to convene the network is yet to come forward and as such there is little to report on in terms of branch activity. As part of the dissolution of our Association our remaining assets were donated to IAML with the intention that this be used to fund Australian members to attend the annual congress. Whilst this wasn't achieved for 2024 our hope is that it can be in place for 2025 to inspire Australian members to connect with the international community and take on a leadership role for the network.

Branch website

<https://www.iamlaustralia.org.au/>

Social media activity

<https://www.facebook.com/IAMLAustralia/> 303 followers, currently relatively inactive.

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Additional comments:

Despite the lack of activity as a network, members and the music community continue to work hard to ensure our music collections are well preserved, curated and promoted and our music library and archives services are well designed to support the needs of our music communities across the country. Our libraries are well used and continue to grow their collections. We were glad to see a commitment from the Australian Government in April 2023 to provide greater funding for Trove our national digital archives which includes a diverse array of sources for music researchers and musicians and an important place to capture and share our First Nations stories.

As with most other countries our academic librarians have been exploring the opportunities and challenges that AI brings, finding ways to embrace the use of AI as part of information literacy assessment tasks. Our academic librarians continue to provide guidance and support to researchers around measuring the impact

of their research and enabling online access to or discovery of non traditional research outputs. They are increasingly focused on providing activities to foster a sense of belonging for international students who make up a significant portion of the student population.

Our music libraries continue to be critical to the preservation and sharing of our First Nations traditions and this is at the forefront of many collection policies now..

Here are some insights into what has been happening in some of our Australian Libraries:

- The University of Sydney's Conservatorium Library saw around 40,000 visits in 2023, supporting students and staff with over 6,000 enquiries. They added over 800 print scores to their collections focusing primarily on contemporary Australian First Nations and Women composers. Their research exhibitions and associated performances, competitions and symposiums, continue to go from strength to strength in 2023 with Listening Back exploring the performance styles of 3 prominent 20th century violinists through historical objects; Dzô! SCM Jazz in Vietnam celebrating cross-cultural collaboration between the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Vietnam National Academy of Music; and later this year they will feature Resilient Resonance, centred on Philippine bamboo music, informed by fieldwork with the Talaandig Tribe. Since the last report given in 2022, long standing member Marie Chellos has retired.
- The State Library of Victoria are working to catalogue the Paul Burke Australian Sound Archive, incorporating 7000 cylinders, 78rpm records, vinyl albums, cassettes and reel to reel tapes. The collection is possibly one of the most important Australian sound collections in the country, covering the earliest days of sound recording in Australia through to the advent of the compact disc.
- The National Library of Australia welcomed Oxford researcher Stephanie Shon as part of their scholarship programme. Stephanie used the Library's collection to explore the cultural politics of Australian art-music composition in the 1960s to 70s.
- University of Melbourne have uncovered some including scores used during the 1888 Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition, curated collections of quite specific interests (Australian Christmas carols feature prominently), as well as some art songs with seriously outdated language. The Rare Music collection's Editions de l'Oiseau-Lyre archive continues to generate scholarly interest, especially after the formation of the Louise Hanson-Dyer and Editions de l'Oiseau-Lyre International Research Network, publication of a book on Dyer, and an upcoming symposium on Musical nation building and cultural exchange. A recent acquisition of note for Rare Music is Encomium musices (ca 1590) a spectacular folio of Flemish engravings depicting biblical scenes featuring music, part of one of the Library's priorities to collect items relating to French music and musicians from the late 19th century to ca. 1950.