



International Association
of Music Libraries, Archives
and Documentation Centres

United Kingdom & Ireland

Submitted by Janet Di Franco – President

National Board Members

- President – Janet Di Franco – University of Huddersfield
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- Brio Editor – Nicholas Clark – Red House, Britten Pears Arts, Aldeburgh
- Webmaster – Antony Gordon – Heathfield, East Sussex

Elected Committee Members

- Almut Boehme – National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
- Richard Jones – Barbican Library, London
- Claire Kidwell – Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London
- Roy Stanley – Library of Trinity College Dublin

IAML Board Members (ex officio)

- Anna Pensaert – Cambridge University Libraries
- Rupert Ridgwell – British Library, London

Board meetings held during the year

- 25 October 2023
- 24 January 2024
- 22 May 2024

Annual branch meetings

Annual General Meeting held online in April 2024 attended by 33 members

Branch membership figures

Institutional

- UK & Ireland Branch 33 (previous year 40)
- International 36 (previous year 38)

Personal

- UK & Ireland Branch 50 (previous year 61)
- International 44 (previous year 47)

Total 163 (previous year 186)

Deaths of notable members

Eric Cooper, 1926-2023 (Honorary member)

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Eric Cooper on 11th September 2023. Eric was a pioneer in music and audio-visual librarianship until his retirement in 1989. His involvement in IAML began in 1953 when he attended the founding meeting of the UK Branch. In 1972 he became the President of the Public Libraries Commission of IAML and served on many other committees concerned with public libraries and sound recordings. Those who worked closely with him have said they couldn't have wished for a better mentor as he was supportive without undue interference. Many music librarians learnt their trade from Eric who gave them standards that served them well throughout their careers. He always led by example and inspired loyalty and gave confidence to others to fight for what they believed in. This was recognised by IAML (UK) when he was made an honorary member to mark his contribution to music libraries. He was also awarded Fellowship of the Library Association in recognition of his research and publications. His loss is deeply felt by those who knew him and owe him so much.

Branch activities

The Branch continues to engage with the Music Libraries Trust by attending meetings online, and also the Heritage Specialist Collection Group representing music libraries and collections within the wider arts community and sharing best practice across sectors.

Branch projects

We are now working on improving access to our website (<https://iaml-uk-irl.org/>) for our members. It is hoped that members will be able to update their own personal information and also renew their membership via the website very soon.

Branch publications

Two issues of the Branch journal, Brio, were published in print. The Autumn/Winter issue (vol 60 no 2) was a special edition to commemorate the Branch's 70th anniversary with a striking platinum cover that included the number 70 embedded in the 'O' of the journal title.

The Branch blog is online.

Branch website

<https://iaml-uk-irl.org/>

The website is updated regularly as and when needed.

Link to Branch annual report

<https://iaml-uk-irl.org/media/annual2023.pdf>

Social media activity

The Branch continues to have an active X (Twitter) account with over 800 followers. We also created additional temporary X (Twitter) and Facebook accounts for the Congress in Cambridge to communicate specifically on this event.

Our Branch blog increased by 29 blog posts in 2023. A number of these were related to Congress practicalities but not all. This year we experimented with shorter posts and posting more frequently which seems to be quite effective.

There is also an active email list provided by JISCmail. There are currently 225 subscribers who posted 678 times in 2023. The majority of communications are concerning the borrowing of performance sets for concerts and events.

Branch educational activity

Due to the Congress being held in Cambridge in 2023, there was no Annual Study Weekend in that year.

However, the Events and Training Committee ran a series of free online webinars that were of interest to music libraries. These included a talks about the Performing Rights Society (Daniel Jones), Copyright and Plagiarism (Margaret Jones), Decolonisation and Diversity (Carissa Chew), Bringing Archives and Special Collections Alive (Geoff Thomason).

The Events and Training Committee are currently working on developing online courses.

Branch scholarships, grants, bursaries, awards

This year the Branch awarded four Excellence Awards to the Foundling Museum: Gerald Coke Handel Collection (with distinction) for good practice, development and innovation in all aspects of their work; the Barbican Music Library for its commitment to good practice through its wide range of topics and themes in their exhibitions; the Royal Northern College of Music for good practice in developing their collections in an innovative way whilst being mindful of equality, diversity and inclusion; the Jerwood Library: Trinity Laban for equality, diversity and inclusion in collection development and their commitment to user education and information literacy.

A Personal Achievement Award was also awarded to Nia Daniel from the National Library of Wales for her commitment in her role and her outreach work to many communities. Not least of all her enthusiasm for Welsh music by obtaining funding for research fellowships into Welsh folk music.

Also in 2023 the Branch awarded its first Honorary Fellows: Kathryn Adamson, Richard Chesser, Geoff Thomason and Anna Wright. All were awarded for long standing service, dedication to music libraries and archives and significant contributions to the Branch over many years in many roles.

RILM and RISM contributions

A batch of 1534 publications and 98 theses from the British Library was sent to RILM in 2023.

There hasn't been any updates to RISM but the RISM UK catalogue is now using RISM Online.

Additional comments

2023 has been a truly fantastic year for IAML (UK & Ir). We hosted the International Congress held in Cambridge (30 Jul-05 Aug) which was a resounding success despite the British weather doing its best to thwart our outdoor events. We had over 300 delegates from over 30 different countries along with our many speakers, contributors, sponsors and exhibitors. This created a rich and diverse environment for exchanging and furthering our musical knowledge and got us thinking creatively about our collections, not only how best we might preserve them but also how to share them with each other; with our students and researchers; our performers, composers, creators and most important of all our communities. However, without the energy, creativity, sheer determination and the 'can do' attitude of the Conference Committee led by Margaret Jones the event would not have been the success it was so I'd thank everyone for their hard work and dedication in making the Congress the success it was.

2023 was of course our 70th birthday year which we celebrated at the Congress along with our sister branch in Sweden. I was delighted that composer Cecilia McDowell agreed to write a celebratory work for the opening ceremony of the Congress entitled *A Tree is a Song*, a setting of the poem by Heather Lane and premiered by The Fairhaven Singers at the opening ceremony. *A Tree is a Song* was published by Oxford University Press in March 2024.