



International Association of  
Music Libraries, Archives and  
Documentation Centres  
**UK & Ireland Branch**

# Annual Report

# 2024



Launch night at Barbican Music Library for *I'm Not Okay: An Emo Retrospective*, an exhibition curated by the Museum of Youth Culture. Image © Museum of Youth Culture



L-R: Caroline Shaw, Almut Boehme, Helen Snelling and Anna Wright at the ASW in Leeds

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# President's Report

## Janet Di Franco



2024 has been a slightly quieter year than 2023 but we have continued to aim high in our endeavours. We continue to improve our new website, seek sustainable funding for Encore 21 and provide specialist training both in person and online. We held another successful Annual Study Weekend (ASW) and Annual General Meeting (AGM) where we awarded three new Honorary Fellowships.

Phase two of our new website (<https://iaml-uk-irl.org>) has been partially completed with new online renewal forms to make it easier to manage membership subscriptions. In the future we hope that members will also be able to update their own contact details via the website. I hope that the website will continue to grow and serve as a resource to those with an interest in music, librarianship and scholarly research alike. If you would like to contribute to the

website please contact me at [president@iaml-uk-irl.org](mailto:president@iaml-uk-irl.org).

Sadly budgets continue to shrink again this year. Therefore the Branch continues to find value for money in all it does. One of our pressing issues is to find sustainable funding for Encore 21. We have been actively seeking a way to achieve this and I want to thank everyone for your contributions to the recent discussions and surveys this year. The situation is a complex one as the way in which performance sets are located, loaned, distributed and paid for is diverse. However, it feels particularly important to secure Encore 21's future as in July this year Malcolm Jones, its custodian and former President, died from a stroke. Malcolm dedicated so much of his free time to updating and future proofing this catalogue as a resource for all. Encore 21 has become instrumental to providing performance sets to music groups throughout our membership and beyond that we simply must find a way to fund its future, but online costs continue to rise. Having said that we are currently pursuing lines of enquiry which I hope will help us to retain this invaluable resource for future generations. Please do continue to get in touch with any ideas you might have at [president@iaml-uk-irl.org](mailto:president@iaml-uk-irl.org).

Back in April 2024, we held our ASW in Leeds, West Yorkshire, at the Radisson Blu Hotel. There was an inspiring programme; from hidden heritage to pop music, finding your feet as a new music librarian to braving adversity, diversification, gender equality, instrument

## President's Report (contd.)

lending and archival collections. Indeed we even “speed dated” archive resources from the Brotherton Gallery and Leeds Central Library which was great fun! There were discussion sessions held to generate ideas on funding opportunities, growing our membership, cataloguing and Encore 21. In 2025 our ASW will be held online in early April in response to feedback from members. I hope this flexibility will enable even more people to attend.



Leeds Central Library

At this year's AGM held in late April it was my pleasure to announce three new Honorary Fellows of the Branch, all of whom are now retired:

**Frances Allott** (Kent Libraries) for her long-standing contribution to the Courses and Education Committee and also presenter of

courses (1998-2012), Chair of the Conference Committee (2014-2018), Convenor of the Excellence Awards (2018-2020) and dedicated contribution to music librarianship.

**Karen McAulay** (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) for her many roles in IAML (UK & Irl), most recently Communications Officer (2021-2024) increasing our presence and visibility via social media, and for the active way she contributed to IAML and music librarianship both as a librarian and scholar. Also for the way she always supports and helps people in the profession both in person and via email.

**John Wagstaff** (University of Cambridge) for his many roles in the Branch spanning 30 years: *Brio* Editor, Chairs of both the Documentation Committee and Events and Training Committee (not concurrently) and most recently an invaluable member of the 2023 Congress Committee to name but a few. And of the International Association: a Vice-Chair of IAML's Commission on Service and Training and currently as IAML historian. Also for his outstanding contribution to music librarianship, scholarly publications and music librarianship courses (Aberystwyth).

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa, this summer. However, I did attend the Congress Forum of National Representatives as this was held as a hybrid meeting.

## President's Report (contd.)

There were several interesting points discussed including offering education and training events to international members, creating online toolkits for music librarianship, inter-branch knowledge sharing sessions as well as preserving Branch histories. So, keep a look out for some of those initiatives in the coming years.

Next year (2026) sees the International Association's 75th anniversary and as a way of marking this it is hoped that National Branches will be able to hold events, exhibitions, concerts, awareness days to join in the celebrations. Could your library or institution help us celebrate? Do let us know at [president@iaml-uk-irl.org](mailto:president@iaml-uk-irl.org).

The International Association is also seeking to establish a UNESCO International Music Libraries and Archives Day. Thank you to everyone who offered their signatures or letters as support. The UK letter of support has now been sent to the UNESCO Commission for the UK. The proposal will be discussed in spring 2025. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for a positive outcome.

The IAML (UK & Irl) Branch continues to be an active participant in the International Association, with two IAML Board members: Rupert Ridgewell (British Library), who is currently the President and Anna Pensaert (Cambridge University Library), who is a Vice-President.

As President I've continued to work with CILIP,

Sound and Music (via the British Music Collection) and the Arts Council. The Branch also continues to work closely with the Music Libraries Trust and Making Music, which represents over 200,000 musicians of all skill levels, through the loan of performance sets via *Encore 21*.

Like many small associations, our work relies solely on volunteers to whom we owe a great debt. So as my time as Branch President is nearing its end (April 2025) I would like to thank all my colleagues who've served on the Branch's committees during my tenure and worked tirelessly on the budget, memberships, our journal *Brio*, the website, *Encore 21*, prizes and awards, training events, the Annual Study Weekends and the Congress in Cambridge in 2023, and of course to all members who are active in the Branch including those employers and wider colleagues who support them in this important professional work. Without this generosity we wouldn't be able to support the wealth of music activities, education and well-being that we do, which in turn benefits workplaces, the wider profession, library users and the general public alike creating a healthy, culturally rich and diverse society and that cannot be underestimated.

Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to commend this report to you and all who read it. I hope you will consider continuing to support our work by remaining or becoming a member of the Branch.

# Treasurer's Report

## Ashley Day

2024 was a fruitful year for the financial operations of the IAML (UK & Irl) branch. Simon Wright and Colin Coleman, our honorary auditors, completed last year's annual Branch audit in February and I am pleased to report that we posted a profit from the international IAML Congress hosted by the Branch last year in Cambridge. This has provided a much-needed cushion in Branch savings.

Branch membership subscriptions again provided financial support for the new Encore21 database, our new Branch website, and the continued maintenance and hosting of the Cecilia database and the Concert Programmes Project websites. Membership dues also subsidised the publication and postage of our Branch periodical, *Brio*.



The IAML Congress 2024 took place in Stellenbosch, South Africa

Membership subscriptions also sponsored several events and training courses this year. In April, the Branch offered its Annual Study Weekend in Leeds, with a large group of attendees that made for a successful weekend of learning and networking. The Branch also sent a delegate, President-Elect Peter Linnitt, to the 2024 international IAML Congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa, this year. The Events and Training committee has also had increased interest in offering low-cost educational day courses, especially *Music for the Terrified*, to librarians throughout the UK. The committee is also creating a cataloguing course to roll out over 2025. All events and training fees financially support the educational development of librarians within our profession and allow the Branch to continue to be a leader in this area.

Kate Eaton (Membership Secretary), Antony Gordon (Webmaster), and I have been working diligently to provide our members with a more streamlined and improved membership renewal experience on our Branch website. The Branch is now offering credit card payments for institutional memberships after the success of using Stripe to process credit card registrations for the international Congress last year. We are currently trialling this new membership system with 2025 membership renewals and feedback is always appreciated.

I would like to thank Colin Coleman and Simon Wright for their assistance in the Branch audit. I look forward to a financially productive 2025!

# Communications

## Jonathan Frank

The overall picture for Branch communications is healthy.

Blog posting has increased significantly, compared to last year, with the number of views also rising. Obviously, the fact that we hosted IAML Congress in Cambridge in summer 2023 is responsible for much of this increase – but not all of it. A policy of uploading shorter blogposts more often, seems to be quite effective.

The most viewed postings were about Congress practicalities (perhaps not surprisingly, buses, and industrial action affecting travel), and a posting about the E. T. Bryant Prize.

Our number of Twitter (“X”) followers has risen slightly, whilst the IAML 2023 Congress account attracted 150 followers in its own right, and a Facebook page especially for the Congress also had a number of followers. However, despite regular Twitter (“X”) postings, engagement is not particularly active, perhaps suggesting that the membership does not rely on this channel as a key source of information.

Kirsty Morgan left the Communications Committee in May last year, and we extend our thanks to her for her efforts whilst she was on the committee. My thanks are extended to all Communications team members for their efforts and support, particularly to Amy Foster for enthusiastically helping coordinate the tweets by our three Congress mascots, Cam, Bridge and Don. (The trio graciously submitted to being photographed with at least one Congress delegate, but have since retired to a more back seat role.)

Members are reminded that the blog essentially functions as our Newsletter now, and contributions – however short – are always welcome.

An important means of communication between music libraries is the Jiscmail email list which is also used by users of the Encore database of performance sets.



Margaret Jones, Chair of the IAML Congress 2023 organising committee, with Don, one of the Congress mascots



# Communications (contd.)

## Jiscmail list: subscribers 2024

At the end of 2024 the total number of subscribers was 224, with a mixture of institutions and individual subscribers.

## List post traffic statistics

Month	Total posts
January 2024	59
February 2024	49
March 2024	52
April 2024	59
May 2024	31
June 2024	39
July 2024	62
August 2024	51
September 2024	52
October 2024	43
November 2024	62
December 2024	42
<b>Jan-Dec 2024 total</b>	<b>601</b>

# Trade and Copyright

## Margaret Jones

Following two years where the Trade and Copyright committee lay dormant, I was welcomed as the new chair in October 2024.

We have already had some success in recruiting new committee members, and were pleased to welcome in December, orchestral librarians, Nicky Grant from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Ben Siebertz-Willett from the

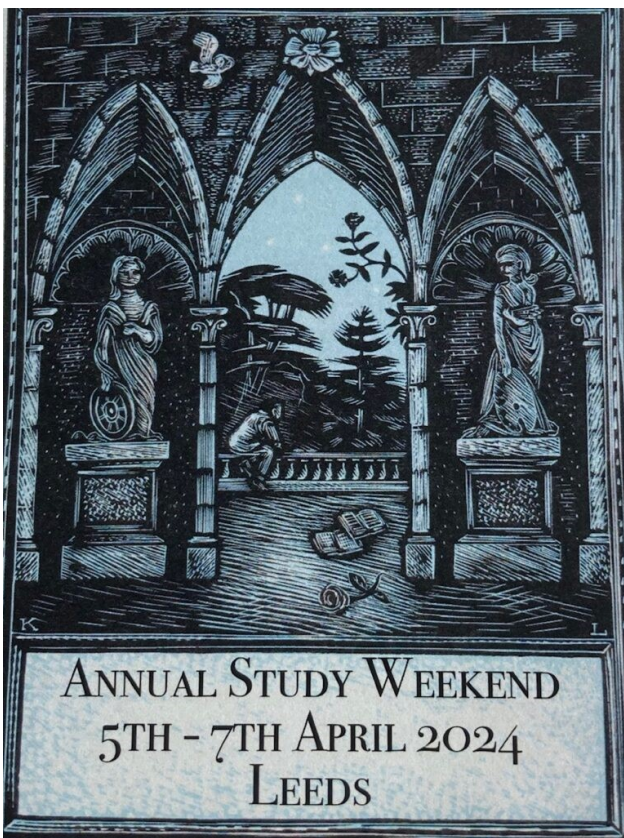
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, along with Harriet Randall, who works for Kent's library service, and will be representing the public library perspective. It's good to have such a diverse group working together.

We're all very excited to see what is in store for Trade and Copyright in 2025.

# Events and Training

## Lee Noon and Catherine Small

The Events and Training Committee have had a few changes in members this year. Helen Snelling from University of Cambridge stepped down from the Committee due to retirement. Helen was an integral member of the Committee who will be greatly missed, and we wish her a happy retirement. A big thank you to Helen for all her work on the committee. We also welcomed a new member, Sarah Lewis, from the University of Lincoln.



In April we held a successful ASW in Leeds hosted at The Radisson with a programme that focused on diversity and inclusion. The Friday began with optional tours to the Central Library and The Leeds Private Library followed by our first talk of the weekend focusing on popular music in Leeds. This was followed by a speed

dating Leeds Libraries and Archives session which involved spending a small amount of time at each table with a person telling you all about an item from their library. Everyone then voted for their favourite item. This is the first time we have run a session like this and it was well received and was a networking event.

Saturday morning was spent at Leeds Art Gallery and included presentations about Ferruccio Busoni and Adolph Brodsky, parallel sessions on national set lending and cataloguing, and EDI initiatives to developing diversity within the collections of the Royal College of Music Library. The morning ended with a talk from Edinburgh Libraries about their instrument borrowing project in community libraries.

Saturday afternoon gave delegates the opportunity to visit Leeds Central Library, Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery at the University of Leeds and self-guided tours of Leeds Conservatoire and Leeds Cathedral. Saturday evening included a presentation around gender equality at Leeds International Piano Competition.

Sunday began with a discussion on cataloguing ethics which included two of the presenters online. As a hybrid session it worked well and created a lot of discussion around this topic. We also had a presentation about archives by women composers at The British Library, a talk about starting out as a music librarian and we finished with reflections on music librarianship with changes at Cardiff University.

# Events and Training (contd.)

Instead of Academic and Public Library seminars we again ran four online webinars in November/December which were held at lunchtimes and recorded for the IAML website members' area. They were:

- ◆ **Finding sound in the archive: a musical approach to exploring non-musical sources** by Martin Scheuregger (University of Lincoln)
- ◆ **National Set lending discussion and updates** led by Lee Noon (Leeds Libraries)
- ◆ **The trying Dutchman: Herman van Dijk and amateur music in Halifax** by Geoff Thomason
- ◆ **Cataloguing ethics and onwards: discussion on issues, and solutions and updates** with Caroline Shaw (British Library) and Duncan Chappell (Glasgow School of Art)

The committee also ran one training event in 2024, Music for the Terrified, which was delivered in Wiltshire by Meg Fisher, Chris Scobie and Katharine Hogg. We received very positive feedback from this course and lots of interest for further training around the UK. For 2025 we will be delivering this course again in Edinburgh and are hoping to have another training session in Manchester.

Further progress has been made around the development of an online cataloguing course. We are now in a position to test this course using the virtual learning environment Moodle with the aim to launch the course mid-2025. The committee would like to thank everyone involved with creating the content for this course, in particular Meg Fisher, Caroline Shaw, Katharine Hogg and Ashley Day.

A special thank you to all Committee members for their work in 2024!



Peter Linnitt speaking at the ASW in Leeds

# Documentation

## Caroline Shaw

We were very sad to learn of the death of our long-standing committee member Malcolm Jones. We will greatly miss his expertise and his company.

We have recently welcomed Anthony McDonald as a new member of the Committee. Anthony brings a wealth of experience in music cataloguing and cataloguing systems, gained from his work in Performing Arts libraries in the UK and the US.

The impact of the cyber-attack at the British Library continues to be felt in many areas. There is continued delay to the British Library's implementation of the new version of RDA (the cataloguing standard Resource Description and Access, which is currently being implemented at the Library of Congress, and is already in use in the National Library of New Zealand). There has been no progress with the legal deposit of digital scores, and it has not been possible to update RILM with the annual list of UK music publications.

Members of the Committee have participated in various Branch projects and activities. Caroline Shaw and Debbie Lee contributed to the panel session on Cataloguing Ethics at the Annual Study Weekend in April, and Caroline co-presented the webinar "Cataloguing Ethics and onwards" in December. Chris Scobie provided

training on using the Cecilia database for cataloguers on the collaborative project "Music, Heritage, Place". Caroline is helping to create content for the music cataloguing course currently being developed by the Events and Training Committee.

Charlotte Jones has received useful responses to her survey of Encore libraries, which aimed to ascertain which libraries are still actively lending sets, and to encourage the updating of holdings. Some authorities responded by saying that they are no longer lending sets; their holdings will be removed from the database. Other responses indicated that people are willing to keep Encore up to date but lack the time or knowledge to do so. Platform managers Catherine Small and Jane Henshaw will offer training, and they are also considering a spreadsheet system for bulk upload of new records.

Through all these activities we aim to encourage and support best practice across the whole spectrum of music metadata creation and management, especially in inclusive descriptive practice, as there are few music-specific resources yet for this. We encourage queries and comments from anyone interested in these matters, and indeed would also welcome new members!

# Cecilia & Concert Programmes Database

## Chris Scobie & Rupert Ridgewell

**Cecilia** (<http://www.cecilia-uk.org>) is IAML (UK & Irl)'s online searchable database of descriptions of music collections in libraries, archives and museums throughout the UK and Ireland. Its creation was funded in 1999 by a grant from the BL Cooperation and Partnership Scheme, the Research Support Libraries Programme and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. At present there are descriptions of over 2000 collections from nearly 800 institutions available. Cecilia continues to be an important source of information for all manner of purposes from academic research to family history. Ongoing overall editorial management is undertaken on a voluntary basis and individual entries are kept up to date by the relevant institution.

In 2024 there were 4,232 unique pageviews (2023: 3,915) from 1,026 users in 39 countries (2023: 1,003 users in 38 countries).

This year also saw the beginning of a collaborative project with Royal Holloway, University of London, 'Music, Heritage, Place:

Unlocking the Musical Collections of England's County Record Offices'. As part of IAML (UK & Irl)'s contribution to this, Chris Scobie provided training on using Cecilia to the project team.

The **Concert Programmes database** (<http://www.concertprogrammes.org.uk>) is the result of a three-year AHRC-funded project (2004–07) hosted by Cardiff University and the Royal College of Music. Building on data compiled for a scoping study commissioned by the Music Libraries Trust (2002–03), the database provides descriptions of concert programme collections held by leading libraries, archives and museums in the UK and Ireland. It has revealed the international scope of the holdings of many contributing institutions, thereby attracting users not only in the UK and Ireland, but also in many other countries worldwide. Work continues to update entries and add new records in relevant institutions.

In 2024, there were 32,000 page views from 7,200 users in 85 countries or territories. Many individual enquiries were fielded by the database manager, Rupert Ridgewell.



# Brio

## Nicholas Clark

The two issues for *Brio*'s 61st volume appeared in June 2024 and January 2025 respectively. Following the significant marker in the Branch's history (commemoration of the 70th anniversary) it was decided that the first issue should be both celebratory and reflective. Reflective in the sense that recollections and observations should make us all aware of the professional challenges we have faced and continue to face. Equally important is the acknowledgement of the Branch's achievements during some of that time.

John Wagstaff provided personal thoughts on IAML (UK & Ireland) at 70. I think inclusion of such material is important as it offers an eye-witness account of the Branch's work, what was important at a certain point in the Branch's history, for readers now and those in years to come. In relation to this, Margaret Jones's account of the International Conference hosted in Cambridge in August 2023 gave a full summary of the programme, and of the organisational work that went on behind the scenes. *Brio* 61.1 also brought to light research on three composers who spanned the twentieth century with articles by Jihun Jeon on his chronology of William Alwyn's string quartets (drawn from a paper delivered at the IAML Congress in Cambridge) and Adèle Commins's work on material available in Ireland and the UK on Charles Villiers Stanford (the centenary of whose death we marked in 2024).

Twentieth century musicians were also featured in reviews of recent books on Gerald Finzi,

Warwick Braithwaite, Ethel Smyth, Dorothy Howell, Rebecca Clarke and Doreen Carwithen. We also gained insight into the scholarship on Heitor Villa-Lobos in a review article by Simon Wright on a book concentrating on *Bachianas Brasileiras*.

Our focus wasn't exclusively on the last century. As the Foundling Museum demonstrated, music underscores our physical as well as intellectual and spiritual well-being. An exhibition on Handel's will, also reviewed in this issue, raised awareness of the composer's far-reaching generosity.



Research on Charles Villiers Stanford appeared during the centenary of his death in issue 1 of *Brio*.

## Brio (contd.)

Recording the Branch's history and the research that Branch members undertake is important to our international colleagues. An example shows the similarities in purpose of Branch publications. Janneka Guise, from Toronto, is writing a history of the Canadian Association of Music Libraries. She remarked that *Brio's* Canadian equivalent, *CAML Review* and its predecessor *CAML Newsletter* are thus significant to her research. The change in the publication's title was adopted in 2000 to reflect a gradual growth in content of research articles and book reviews. Janneka explains, "We only added peer review in 2016, and typically publish one or two peer reviewed articles per year (we publish 2 issues a year). We changed to a fully open access model in 2010."

This year's second issue of *Brio* which is being prepared for distribution at the time of writing is more research-based in terms of content. Continuing the theme of anniversaries there is a commemoration of the 150 years since the birth of Gustav Holst by Philippa Tudor. Jonathan Frank gives us some insight into the life and work of music librarian William Barclay Squire, Frankie Perry and Loukia Drosopoulou outline a British Library project examining the archives of women musicians, and Andrew Frampton presents Part 1 of a study of content of, and access to, music collections in Oxford and Berlin.

The issue also contains a review of Lewis Foreman's recent book on recording British music. Having noted the importance of personal reminiscence, I am grateful to Pam Thompson for contributing an excellent tribute to Malcolm

Jones, a stalwart of IAML (UK & Ireland) who sadly passed away last summer. Malcolm's work for IAML, local and international, has been partly documented over the years in the pages of *Brio* so it is appropriate that a commemoration of some of his achievements are featured in this issue.



Malcolm Jones

Image © Rev. Andrew Tapsell

This issue also features a revised and simplified scheme of the advertising rates offered by the journal. Looking at back issues of *Brio*, as with many hardcopy versions of magazines, one is struck by the abundance of advertising. Although the digital age has had an obvious impact of advertising in printed material our readership is still a focussed one and the benefit of adopting an advertising presence within the pages of *Brio* should never be discounted. Anyone wishing to advertise in the journal is welcome to contact advertising manager Catherine Small to discuss options.

## Brio (contd.)

*Brio* could not happen without the help of several people from the Executive Committee and further afield. Catherine's assistance with advertising is always appreciated. Martin Holmes's editing of reviews makes life easier as the deadline for final copy approaches. Ashley Day's expertise on matters financial is invaluable. The work undertaken by Kate Eaton and Susan Clayton on distribution of the journal is vital and always welcome. Sue has moved to a new role in the BL (at Boston Spa) which means that her role in distribution will be taken up by someone else. However, she generously offered to help with the Autumn/Winter issue, for which I'm most grateful. I would like to thank her for her work on *Brio* over the years and wish her

well. As always, my thanks to Rebecca Biegel and Ken Hall at E-Type Press who find answers to all technical challenges.

Lastly, this annual report allows me space to remind readers that Editors are not infallible. There is nothing more galling than to find that an error has crept into a published piece, despite having read it in draft version several times. As G.K. Chesterton observed, "If you look at a thing nine hundred and ninety-nine times, you are perfectly safe; if you look at it the thousandth time, you are in frightful danger of seeing it for the first time." For mistakes that do make entirely unwelcome appearances, I apologise.

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## IAML (UK & Irl)

The UK & Ireland Branch of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres  
Promoting music libraries and information throughout the UK & Ireland. Serving the profession since 1953

The IAML (UK & Ireland) Branch represents members working with music and music information provision in libraries and other institutions in the United Kingdom and Ireland. To find out more view the [About us page](#).

Join us to enjoy members' rates for study weekends and courses as well as gaining access to publications and other resources.

The Branch is a member of the [Heritage Collections Advisory Group](#) and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with [CILIP](#) that establishes a framework for cooperation to achieve their respective and common goals.

The Branch awards two annual prizes: the [C.B. Oldman Award](#), and the [E.T. Bryant Memorial Prize](#). In addition biennial awards are made in recognition of [service excellence by libraries and individuals](#). [Bursaries](#) are made available for attendance at Annual Study Weekends as well as the annual IAML international Congress.

### Latest Posts

[Isata flies the flag for sheet music](#)

[Malcolm Jones 1943-2024](#)

[Archival sources take centre stage at British Library's Gustav Holst 150 event](#)

[Tweets by IAML\\_UK\\_IRL](#)



# Website

## Antony Gordon

Almost two years since the new website went live, the original developer has, despite several reminders, not yet fixed some minor issues. A different approach is clearly required.

Aside from regular maintenance tasks most of this year's work has been related to the need for a new membership system. The initial plan was to use one of several specialist WordPress membership plugins. On a recommendation from a similar membership association one was selected and installed for testing while its features and drawbacks were discussed at some length. This plugin would have accomplished most if not all of the Branch's needs, but drawbacks included embedded costs relating to the overall number of transactions, and to per-card transaction processing charges of around 2.5%. Against the undoubted convenience of a

card payment option, the additional costs involved would have added a further 3% or more to Branch subscriptions at a time when the Branch has been endeavouring to keep increases as low as possible.

Another solution was clearly needed and it came in the shape of a form-generating plugin that is free to use for those features that the Branch needed, and could easily accommodate BACS and cheque payment options. New registration forms for Personal and Institutional members were built and tested through several iterations. The existing membership pages were then reorganized to include the new forms, and a new Join Us top-level menu item was added. The system was ready to go live in time for the start of the 2025 membership round. At the time of writing it has been live for almost four weeks and seems to be running smoothly. While this is a more manual process than we had initially hoped, it provides all the information needed by the Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster. Logins for access to members-only areas of the website that were previously added only on request are now added whenever renewals or new registrations are received.

Other regular maintenance tasks include monitoring website security, Branch email administrator, and shared administration of the JISCMail listserv (iaml-uk-irl). Additional jobs at international IAML: email administrator, and general contact mailbox monitor.



Work on Gustav Holst on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth appears in issue 2 of *Brio*.

# Music Libraries Trust

## Lucy Rose

The Trust's principal objective is to provide support for the education and training of music librarians. It also encourages and supports research into music librarianship, music bibliography and related disciplines. The Trust works in conjunction with IAML (UK & Irl) to provide a focus for the inception of ideas and for the skills of music librarians to be re-evaluated in the context of changing user needs and new technologies.

### Music Library users and staff survey

As mentioned in previous reports, the Trust commissioned a large-scale survey of music library users and staff in the UK and Ireland from Dr Michael Bonshor which took place in summer 2020. The executive summary results were published in December 2020 and can be accessed via the Music Libraries Trust website, [www.musiclibrariestrust.org](http://www.musiclibrariestrust.org). A fuller article about the survey was published in *Brio* (58:1), Spring/Summer 2021. ('A survey of Music Library staff and Music Library users in the UK and Ireland: current concerns and potential developments' by Michael Bonshor).

An action group with membership including MLT, IAML and Making Music representatives has been working on further actions following on from the survey. In 2022 they completed a vision document titled *Music libraries in the UK: a vision for the future*, with an executive summary and a full vision. This can be downloaded via the MLT website: [www.musiclibrariestrust.org/news/2022/6/17/music-libraries-in-the-uk-a-vision-for-the-future](http://www.musiclibrariestrust.org/news/2022/6/17/music-libraries-in-the-uk-a-vision-for-the-future)

During 2024, The Music Libraries Trust initiated a major move forward with Arts Council England. This resulted in an online meeting on 17th September, convened by Luke Burton (Director for Libraries), which was attended by 50 librarians across the UK. Claire Mera-Nelson (Director of Music, ACE) also joined the meeting.

ACE's invitation to this meeting stated: "Arts Council England along with Making Music would like to convene a round table with Library services that provide a music service. This service might come in several forms from sheet music through to lending instruments. The purpose is to establish an understanding of the landscape, current issues and how Music Hubs, Music NPOs, libraries, and the Arts Council can work collaboratively at the intersection of libraries and music."

The agenda included an introduction from Making Music and Arts Council followed by a discussion and next steps. The MLT felt that the meeting was very positive and there were many shared experiences. ACE will collate the many comments made during the meeting and report on further steps.



# Music Libraries Trust (contd.)

## Research grants

The Music Libraries Trust always welcomes applications from individuals who are researching music library/information and music bibliography projects, and who may need a small grant to achieve that research or to bring their project to fruition. Over the years the Trust has supported many such initiatives. Information and guidelines for applications can be found on the MLT website: [www.musiclibrariestrust.org/research](http://www.musiclibrariestrust.org/research)

Many small research projects have led to larger, more developed ones and to publications; others have provided lasting documentation within individual libraries. Our grants are often small but can provide just the assistance needed.

## Trustees and Officers

We welcomed Katy Hamilton as a Trustee in November 2024.

## Bursaries

The Ian Ledsham Bursary is administered by MLT with input from IAML (UK & Irl). It contributes £350 towards the cost of attending the annual IAML International conference. In 2024, the IAML international congress took place in Stellenbosch, South Africa. A bursary was advertised, but no applications were received.

The IAML (UK & Irl) Annual Study Weekend (ASW) was held in Leeds on the 5th-7th April 2024. MLT was able to provide funding for four attendees at the conference, using funds remaining from a withdrawn application to last year's annual congress, and a full bursary very

kindly sponsored by Stainer & Bell.

One full bursary was awarded, and three part bursaries, to the following:

### Full bursary:

- Emily Peart (Clyde & Co; University College London) – Stainer & Bell bursary recipient

### Part bursaries:

- Hannah McCooke (Craigmillar Library)
- Alex Nightingale (Royal Northern College of Music)
- Frank Norman (CYM Library)

## General updates

We are still seeking a trustee to represent the music library community in the Republic of Ireland. At present our trustee meetings are held online with plans to meet annually each June in London. We hope this will make it easier for trustees from around the UK and Ireland to participate in meetings.

We have a number of illustrious patrons – composers, performers and conductors and other prestigious figures in the music world. The full listing is on our website (<http://www.musiclibrariestrust.org/patrons/>).

As ever we would like to thank all those who have made financial contributions or contributed their time to the Trust over the last year.

# MLT Trustees; Affiliations

## Trustees & Officers of the Music Libraries Trust

Sally Groves MBE, **Chair** (formerly Schott Music Ltd.)

Lucy Rose, **Hon. Secretary** (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance)

Kathy Adamson, **Hon. Treasurer** (formerly Royal Academy of Music)

Richard Douglas, **Bursaries Administrator** (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance)

Sarah Akroyd (Nottingham City Libraries)

Barbara Eifler (Making Music)

Lewis Foreman (Music Consultant)

Andrew Frampton (University of Oxford)

Katharine Hogg (Gerald Coke Handel Collection)

Sarah Osborn (formerly Independent Society of Musicians)

Sandra Tuppen (British Library)

Bettina Varwig (University of Cambridge)

George Vass (Conductor and Festival Director)

Nicholas Williams (Stainer & Bell Ltd.)

Simon Wright (Oxford University Press)



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## Affiliations to other organisations

Forum for Interlending

Music Research Consortium

National Music Council

Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance

IAML (UK & Irl) is a Branch of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres

# Membership

## Kate Eaton

2024 saw us welcome five new student members, and three new individual members. We continued to experience a reduction in renewals overall, and considerable disruption to continuity of institutional contacts year on year. Nearly 30% of 2023's institutional invoicing contacts had changed by January 2024. We know that this challenge is experienced by other IAML national branches worldwide. (Attached is the table showing membership trends since 2016). We also did not enjoy a similar boost in interest in the Branch that came with 2023's highly successful Congress hosted by us in Cambridge.

The launch of our new website and a new way of capturing and storing membership and contact data during Autumn 2024 will assist greatly with keeping in touch with all our member contacts. Already in mid-January, we have a renewal rate of nearly 50% for 2025's individual members, and two new members have signed up.

While we were not able to implement online payments for cost reasons, the new website is a great improvement in every other respect, and I am very grateful to Antony Gordon, our webmaster, for the work he did to implement the changes to membership functionality.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b><i>Institutional</i></b>									
UK & Ireland Branch	42	39	41	36	38	32	40	33	17
International	40	42	38	36	38	29	38	36	31
<b><i>Personal</i></b>									
UK & Ireland Branch	53	53	53	45	49	36	61	50	44
International	49	52	54	43	43	36	47	44	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>135</b>

## Honorary Members

Peter Baxter, Antony Gordon, Liz Hart, Ruth Hellen, Malcolm Jones (†), Roy Stanley, Roger Taylor, Pam Thompson, Susi Woodhouse

## Honorary Fellows

Kathryn Adamson, Frances Allott, Richard Chesser, Karen McAulay, Geoff Thomason, John Wagstaff, Anna Wright

# IAML (UK & Irl) Executive Committee 2024

## Officers

PRESIDENT (2022-2025)	Janet Di Franco (University of Huddersfield)
PRESIDENT ELECT (2024-2025)	Peter Linnitt (Royal College of Music)
GENERAL SECRETARY (2024-2027)	Meg Fisher (British Library)
TREASURER (2022-2028)	Ashley Day (Royal College of Music)
CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE	Jonathan Frank (Royal College of Music)
CHAIR, DOCUMENTATION COMMITTEE	Caroline Shaw (British Library)
JOINT CHAIR, EVENTS & TRAINING COMMITTEE	Lee Noon (Leeds Central Library) (Training)
JOINT CHAIR, EVENTS & TRAINING COMMITTEE	Catherine Small (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) (ASW)
CHAIR, TRADE & COPYRIGHT COMMITTEE	Margaret Jones (Cambridge University Libraries)
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Kate Eaton (Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London)
BRIO EDITOR	Nicholas Clark (The Red House, Britten Pears Arts)
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 & Dance)
Roy Stanley (Library of Trinity College Dublin)

## IAML Board Members (ex-officio)

PRESIDENT (2024-2027)	Rupert Ridgwell (British Library)
VICE-PRESIDENT (2023-2026)	Anna Pensaert (Cambridge University Libraries)

## Non-voting Members

MINUTES SECRETARY	Gail Tasker (British Library)
THE MUSIC LIBRARIES TRUST REPRESENTATIVE	Katharine Hogg (Gerald Coke Handel Collection)

# Committees 2024

## COMMUNICATIONS

Jonathan Frank (Chair)  
 Kate Eaton (Membership Secretary)  
 Amy Foster (Press & PR)  
 Vacancy (Blog Editor)  
 Nicholas Clark (Brio Editor)  
 Antony Gordon (Webmaster)

## DOCUMENTATION

Caroline Shaw (Chair)  
 Federica Nardacci (Secretary)  
 Charlotte Jones (Performance Sets Officer)  
 Malcolm Jones (Encore21 Manager)  
 Deborah Lee  
 Chris Scobie (Cecilia Manager)  
 Anthony McDonald

## EVENTS & TRAINING

Lee Noon (Training) (Joint Chair)  
 Catherine Small (ASW) (Joint Chair)  
 Meg Fisher  
 Laura Johnson  
 Sarah Lewis  
 Geoff Thomason

**NOTE** Committees and Working Groups are appointed by the Executive Committee to advance the work of the Branch within their respective fields of interest. The President, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch have the right to attend and vote at meetings of any Committee or Working Group.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Janet Di Franco (President)  
 Meg Fisher (General Secretary)  
 Ashley Day (Treasurer)  
 Gail Tasker (Minutes Secretary)  
 Almut Boehme (Executive Committee Rep.)  
 Claire Kidwell (Executive Committee Rep.)  
 Roy Stanley (Ireland Representative)

## TRADE & COPYRIGHT

Margaret Jones (Chair)  
 Chris Scobie (Secretary)  
 Nicky Grant  
 Morag Greig  
 Claire Kidwell  
 Harriet Randall  
 Philip Shields  
 Ben Siebertz-Willett  
 Simon Wright



Silk and Bamboo Music performed by members of the UK Chinese Ensemble at Barbican Music Library.

Image © Barbican Music Library

# Working Groups 2024

## ENCORE21 MONITORING GROUP

Caroline Shaw (Chair)  
Jane Henshaw (Platform Manager)  
Catherine Small (Platform Manager)  
Charlotte Jones  
Antony Gordon  
Martin Feijen

## E.T. BRYANT PRIZE

Nicholas Clark (Convenor)  
Margaret Jones  
Sally Groves

## C.B. OLDMAN PRIZE

Colin Coleman (Convenor)  
Meg Fisher  
Roy Stanley

## IAML (UK & IRL) EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Peter Baxter  
Geoff Thomason

## MLT IAN LEDSHAM BURSARY PANEL

IAML (UK & Irl) Representative: Almut Boehme

## EMAIL LIST JOINT OWNERS

Tom Halvarsson  
Almut Boehme  
Antony Gordon

## E.T. Bryant Prize 2023

*The E.T. Bryant Prize is awarded jointly with the Music Libraries Trust, to a student of Library and Information Science, or to a librarian in their first five years in music librarianship.*

No prize was awarded for 2023.

## C.B. Oldman Prize 2023

*The C.B. Oldman prize is an annual award for an outstanding work of music bibliography, music reference or music librarianship by an author (or joint authors) resident in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.*

No prize was awarded for 2023.