

MLA/IAML town meeting (Shepard) 1

Breakfast with the Twins: A Town Meeting for the MLA/IAML-US Affiliation Question
Pacific Island Rooms, Paradise Point Resort & Spa, 24 March 2010, 7:30-8:45 a.m.
Music Library Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, California

Notes of open discussion after the introduction by MLA President Ruthann McTyre and IAML-US President Judy Tsou, submitted by John Shepard (IAML-US)

Geraldine Ostrove enlarged upon the description of IAML's activities, saying that it includes professional branches (Archives/Music Documentation Centres, Broadcasting/Orchestra Libraries, Libraries in Music Teaching Institutions, Public Libraries, and Research Libraries) and subject commissions (Bibliography, Audio-Visual Materials, Service/Training, and Cataloguing), as well as committees and working groups. Ruthann responded that a task force comprised equally of MLA and IAML-US board members will be working out the minutiae of both associations' activities, and Judy added that many things—such as finances—would be combined were the two associations to merge.

Alluding to past attempts at forging closer association between MLA and IAML-US, Jane Gottlieb [a past president of both] applauded the current initiative. She reminded the attendees that IAML, along with the International Musicological Society, is a cosponsor of RISM. RILM, RIPM, and RIDIM, and that with a merger MLA would become even more involved with these international projects. Bonna Boettcher added that both MLA and IAML-US Branch support the US RILM Office with subventions.

Paul Cary asked to what extent income streams from the two associations would be mixed. Judy Tsou responded that a portion of dues—for those who choose to join IAML as well as MLA—would still have to be sent to the international Treasurer of IAML, but that current IAML-US endowments could be managed within MLA. Wendy Sistrunk said that both *Notes* and *Fontes artis musicae* would continue to exist [IAML-US does not have its own journal], so that both advertising income streams would be secure.

Jenn Riley asked “If membership is separate, what is the board structure, and who is eligible for board membership?” Ruthann McTyre responded that the task force on merger issues, in conjunction with the boards of both MLA and IAML-US, will work such issues out.

Wendy Sistrunk said that partnership between MLA and IAML makes sense with regard to concerns about diversity issues and the needs of international students (both foreign students in the U.S. and U.S. students abroad).

Jay Weitz: Org structure: Why isn't MLA branch of IAML now since there is a IAML-US. Judy Tsou summarized the histories of MLA (founded in 1931) and IAML (founded in 1951), as an explanation of the existence of two music library societies in the U.S. In every other country with a music library association, that association is the national

branch of IAML. In the U.K/Ireland and Canada, two-tiered membership is offered: to the national branch alone, or to that branch and IAML.

Andrew Justice: pointed out benefits of International travel, increased diversity

Elizabeth Edminster asked if—under the two-tiered membership proposal for MLA affiliation with IAML—it would be possible to join IAML and not MLA. Judy Tsou answered that currently, there are only four IAML-US members who are not MLA members, those contacted have said that they would be willing to join MLA if it merged with IAML. The proposed two-tiered membership would not be designed to encourage IAML membership without MLA membership.

Wagstaff: clarified memberships – joining IAML-US means you are also a member of International IAML.

Mary Wallace Davidson said that among other opportunities for professional activity IAML offers is work on legal issues related to copyright and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). [The Chair of IAML's Copyright Committee regularly disseminates via IAML-L news releases and policy statements—often concerned with copyright and licensing—from the European Board of Library, Information, and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA)].

Phil Vandermeer stated that—as with health care—there are two sides to every issue. He then asked “is there anybody here who thinks this is a really bad idea?” adding “if so, this is the time to talk about it.” There were no responses to Phil's entreaty.

Joy Pile asked if MLA would still have its national conferences under the proposed merger, and—if so—how many meeting rooms IAML-US would require. JT answered: just as now, no change essentially. [There will not be more meeting rooms needed than at present: if a no-longer-extant IAML-US branch were not having board and business meetings, there still might be a meeting of IAML members during the MLA conference.]

Pam Bristah asked what accommodations would be made for members of MLA who do not live in the U.S. John Wagstaff volunteered the information that although he is an MLA member who lives and works in the U.S., his IAML membership is through the both IAML-US and IAML-UK/Ireland branch, so residents of other countries could join IAML through their national branches. Another attendee asked what were the activities of IAML-US. Judy Tsou described the donated materials program, the support of the U.S. RILM Office, and the awarding of the Lenore Coral travel grant to assist attendance at IAML conferences.

LKR suggested a dues structure which would offer an incentive to join both MLA and IAML by lowering the combined dues. Michael Rogan said that the dues structure would have implications for IAML and that there may be a substantive distinction between a branch and an affiliated association. He asked for IAML President Martie

Severt's advice. Martie said that the structure is for MLA members to decide; he added that "we want to hear from MLA at the IAML conferences" and that IAML's national branches are all of equal importance within IAML.

Barbara Walzer asked if MLA and IAML were to merge, would MLA lose its identity. Ruthann McTyre suggested that MLA would be affiliated with IAML as it is with ALA. She said that—with MLA Board approval—a task force would present a document on the merger before members would be asked to vote on the issue. Geraldine Ostrove countered that MLA *is* music librarianship in the US, the action in the field is within MLA, and that the MLA conferences draw international attendees, so "affiliation" just doesn't say it for me." She concluded that with a full-fledged merger, MLA would assume its natural role on the international scene.

Suzanne Flandreau (?) – comment UVA international grant?

Wendy Sistrunk said that she serves on the MLA Legislation Committee, and that with all legislative issues affecting U.S. music libraries, U.S. music librarians need international support (for example, on sound recording copyright, U.S. librarians' positions would benefit from international support in approaching the U.S. Copyright Office and/or Congress).

In regard to Board structure, Jerry McBride asked who would be the U.S. representative to IAML. Ruthann McTyre said it would be the MLA President; Judy added that there will be IAML US board member to guide merger in early years.

David Hunter: MLA pres would need to be IAML member
Martie S: IAML has many institutional members

A student member (Yi-Hong Sim) of MLA said that the prospect for merger of MLA and IAML was very exciting for students, because it would seem to open up many possibilities, such as internships abroad and exchange programs. Another attendee speculated that synergies could develop between MLA and IAML working groups.

David Day: IAML Working group programs can only enrich MLA programs.

Joseph Boonin introduced himself and then said "I urge MLA: don't do things by halves. Merge!" Another attendee asked how much money would dues come to, and what percentage would go to IAML. Judy Tsou said that for those who opt only for MLA membership, no part of their dues would go to IAML. Mary Wallace Davidson said that currently, approximately 80% of IAML-US dues for individual membership go to international IAML (or 37.5 Euros [approx. \$50.00 at the 7 April 2010 exchange rate]). Sending % of dues in Euros. Will the merger adversely affect the budget? No. Dues will be separate.

Jenn R: Following Joe, said that if dues increase is the only downside, then go for it.
John Wagstaff: Also in favor of being a branch, go "whole hog."

Brian McMillan, a CAML representative in attendance said that CAML existed (as the Association of Canadian Music Libraries) before it became a branch of IAML; currently, half of CAML's members are IAML members, and CAML did not lose its Canadian identity by being part of IAML. On the contrary, IAML gives support to CAML's national activities. Brian is willing to answer any questions regarding the CAML model. Jane Gottlieb, former president of IAML-US, responded that "this model is the way to go," even if it seems not going "all the way." She added that formerly proposed models for merging created a concern that MLA would overwhelm IAML with the sheer number of its members.

As the time allotted for the Town Hall meeting was drawing to a close, Ruthann and Judy laid out what the next steps would be. Ruthann stated that the MLA Constitution and By-Laws require that a vote on affiliation with another association take place by secret ballot at a regular meeting of the membership; the next opportunity will be the 2011 annual meeting in Philadelphia. While a vote by the membership via mail ballot might seem a more attractive proposition, MLA parliamentarian Nancy Lorimer said that changing the Constitution and By-Laws to make that possible would require a minimum of two years. [I sensed a consensus for moving ahead sooner rather than later.]

Ruthann and Judy asked for a straw vote on merger/affiliation of MLA and IAML. The yeas carried the vote overwhelmingly.