

CAML President's Annual Report, 2016

Following last year's annual general meeting (AGM) in Ottawa, the CAML board bid farewell to Sean Luyk, Member-at-Large, and Cathy Martin, Communications Officer. Houman Behzadi assumed the role of Member-at-Large; James Mason, the CAML webmaster, replaced Cathy. In late 2015, Jan Guise replaced Joanne Paterson as Nominations Officer. I offer my thanks to Sean, Cathy, and Joanne for their valuable contributions to the Association and to Houman, James, and Jan for their willingness to serve.

Over the past year, the board has addressed a variety of issues. In response to the 2015 vote in support of electronic elections, the board charged the new Nominations officer, Jan Guise, and Member-at-Large Houman Behzadi to continue the investigation begun by Joanne Paterson, Sean Luyk, and Cathy Martin into e-vote platforms. A recommendation has been submitted to the board and is summarized in the Nominations Officer report. It will be presented for discussion at this year's AGM.

The board also tracked developing cultural policy issues through the change of Canada's federal government. The former Conservative government extended copyright protection for sound performances and recordings from 50 to 70 years in its 2015 budget. In a letter drafted by Richard Green, CAML expressed its reservations concerning this extension. A response defending the government's decision was received from the minister Shelly Glover on July 29, 2015. The Liberal government appears reluctant to follow this lead. In January 2016, David Lametti, Parliamentary Secretary to International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, floated the idea of a registration system for the extended copyright term required by the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Such a system "could ensure rights holders still get revenue from valuable works during that time, while opening up works that are no longer profitable to the public." (<http://www.fyimusicnews.ca/articles/2016/01/27/liberals-may-explore-registration-system-copyright-extension-tpp>). CAML will continue to monitor this important policy issue.

Likewise, the recent announcement by Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly of her intention to review the long-standing Canadian content rules and regulations may call for CAML advocacy. The board will consider possible courses of action as the review process unfolds.

James Mason, CAML Communications Officer, launched a new website for the Association at www.caml-acbm.org. Following a calamitous failure of the previous website a few years ago, the University of Toronto Music Library offered the Association temporary online space. Housed on a third-party platform that supports bilingual functionalities, the site is now easier for CAML members—regardless of their institutional affiliation—to contribute to. While the site is still under development—content needs to be supplemented, translations completed, and the structure re-examined—a major first step has been achieved. I extend my thanks to James for getting us this far.

Under the editorship of Cathy Martin, with support from Megan Chellew, Desmond Maley, and Deborah Wills, 3 issues of the *CAML Review* appeared this year. There are exciting developments in the works for Winter 2016. More news to follow at the AGM.

Conferences never just “happen.” For CAML 2016, University of Calgary archivist Bonnie Woelk deserves our collective thanks for taking charge of the Association’s local arrangements. Tim Neufeldt assumed responsibility for this year’s Program Committee. Both Bonnie and Tim liaised with MusCan to ensure the coordination of both Associations’ conference activities.

For a number of years, CAML has granted awards to first-time conference presenters and attendees. This year, a separate committee was established to work in tandem with the conference program committee. Led by Houman Behzadi, the committee formalized its membership and procedures and selected two deserving winners, who will be recognized at the AGM.

In addition to CAML 2016, the board also dove into MLA 2017 at the invitation of the Music Library Association’s President, Michael Rogan. Proposed as the first [“Pan-American Regional IAML Conference”](#)—an idea raised at last year’s IAML conference—MLA 2017 aims to gather attendees from across North, Central, and South America in Orlando, FL, next February 22-26. Tim Neufeldt will represent CAML on the conference program committee, I have drafted joint communications with Michael Rogan, and both of us are engaged in the travel grant application process. Future service opportunities for other CAML members may arise.

Plans for CAML 2017 are already afoot. More details will be released at the end of this year’s conference.

Finally, I wish to recognize a departing board member, Cheryl Martin. After 4 years of service as President-Elect, President, and Past-President, she is taking a well-deserved rest from board duties. I wish to express my personal thanks to Cheryl for her mentorship in the ways of the CAML presidency.

Respectfully submitted,

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