

Report on the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Quebec Chapter of CAML

By Katie Lai

The annual meeting of la Section québécoise de l'Association canadienne des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (SQACBM, or the Quebec Chapter of the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (CAML) in English) was held on Friday October 13, 2023, at the Grande Bibliothèque in Montreal. It was a one-day hybrid meeting with presenters and attendees from a wide range of institutions, including universities, conservatory, colleges, publisher, non-profit music centre, and Bibliothèque et archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ).

There were a total of five presentations, two roundtable sessions, plus the Chapter's general assembly. The first presentation "Révision du RVMMEM" by Lina Picard of Université de Montréal gave an overview of their work in revising the Répertoire de vedettes-matière moyens d'exécution en musique (RVMMEM), the French-Canadian version of the Library of Congress Medium of Performance Thesaurus for Music (LCMPT). Lina shared with us their work in progress, problems identified between the different structure of RVMMEM and LCMPT, the modifications made to certain authority records, and other challenges encountered. The second presentation "Les services de bibliothèque et la centre de documentation du CMC Québec" given by Claire Marchand and Naomi Ouellet introduced the services and resources available at CMC Québec's new location in Montreal and demonstrated ways to discover scores and information through their website. Next was my presentation showing an online game that the Marvin Duchow Music Library of McGill University devised this year as part of the orientation activities for new music undergraduate students. The game design, event preparation and lessons learned were shared. Then, in the open discussion session "Rencontre 2024 de l'ACBM," Houman Behzadi of McGill University invited SQACBM members to consider participating in the CAML 2024 conference and solicited ideas on the types of involvement members envisaged (See Image 1). Some suggestions received include repeating presentations from this meeting and proposing presentations on new topics that capture the work of music libraries and/or music library workers in Quebec or on the history and mission of SQACBM.

In the afternoon, the Chapter held its general assembly during which Julie Lefebvre, the president of SQACBM, gave a report on the works of the Board of Directors in the past year and Frédéric Tremblay gave a report on the Chapter's finances. Naomi Ouellet was elected to serve in the Board

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of Directors after Marie Eve Cossette's 2-year term ends, and Frédéric Tremblay was re-elected to continue his service in the Board.

IMAGE 1. JULIE LEFEBVRE (LEFT) AND HOUMAN BEHZADI (RIGHT) DURING THE DISCUSSION OF "RENCONTRE 2024 DE L'ACBM." PHOTO CREDIT: KATIE LAI.



After the general assembly, Lucinda Johnston, the president of CAML, joined us online with her warm message to SQACBM members and congratulations to the presenters. Then, Shireen Abu-Khader, in her presentation "Voices from the Middle East," shared her vision in creating the Dozan World Library which aims to serve as a platform and publishing venue to bring music from the Middle East to the international community ethically and faithfully. To make music approachable to non-Arab educators and to facilitate truthful and accurate music performances, abundant amount of performance and pedagogical resources such as an IPA pronunciation guide, lyric translation, transliteration, performance notes, audio guides and recordings are provided on their website and in the scores. Storytelling and piece background by researchers and historians are made available to help revive the history and the stories behind the music. Next came the presentation "Braille musical et livres adaptés." Geneviève Mangerel of BAnQ explained the specific article in the Canadian Copyright Act that allows non-profit institutions such as libraries to reproduce a work in a medium or format designed for people with perceptual disabilities. She further went on to describe their braille music collection and the different types of devices and services BAnQ offers to people with disabilities. The last presentation was a roundtable on music intellectual integrity facilitated by Virna Duplessis and Marie Eve Cossette of Cégep de Saint-Laurent. They talked about their campaign on intellectual integrity that was carried out in Fall 2023 and the many digital learning objects created to introduce and educate students about the concept. Questions concerning inspirations vs. plagiarism in music and the related grey areas were raised and discussed.

The meeting ended with a guided tour of Le Pavillon and the music and films section of the Grande Bibliothèque led by Oscar Salazar Varela (See Image 2). Seeing the Collection de musique de la Bibliothèque nationale with almost everything published in Quebec, created/composed by Quebecers, or published elsewhere about Quebec's music scene and listening to the descriptions and statistics of the materials there by Oscar and Guylaine Vallée gave me great pride of how many treasures we have in Quebec.

IMAGE 2. EXHIBITION IN LE PAVILLON, IN THE MUSIC AND FILMS SECTION OF THE GRANDE BIBLIOTHÈQUE. PHOTO CREDIT: KATIE LAI.



This was the first time I attended an SQACBM event. It was a small conference, but with a tight-knit group of library professionals who work hard to build, preserve, and promote music heritage in Quebec. I feel so privileged and lucky to become a part of it, and I look forward to next year's meeting.

Last but not least, a big thank you to the SQACBM Board of Directors and the many individuals who worked tirelessly to make this event a success.