To: Renate Behrens, RSC Chair
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Chelsea Hoover, Chair of the RSC Music Working Group
Subject: Annual Report 2026

Introduction
The Terms of Reference for the Music Working Group are set out in RSC/Chair/2026/10, which includes the requirement to "Provide an interim report to the RSC in December 2026" (Task 4.4). At the request of the Chair and Secretary, we are submitting this report in time for the RSC's November 2026 Meeting in the expectation that this will provide time for fruitful discussion of our work so far.

Terms of Reference
The Music Working Group met in mid-February to discuss the task questions from the initial Terms of Reference document (RSC/Chair/2025/14) and establish priorities for addressing those questions. While the working group members mostly agreed that the questions were appropriate for this group to address, there were a few on which members wished for more clarity. These were raised with the RSC at its April Meeting, resulting in the current terms of reference.

Research Focus for 2026
For 2026, the Working Group decided to prioritize the question about whether RDA can provide sufficient instructions or tools for the documentation of music (Task 4.1, question [1]). Working Group members then posted projects to the group's Basecamp page that they had identified for the group to possibly address. These projects included topics such as addressing implications from the RDA Extent Working Group's recently approved proposals on using terms from the RDA Format of Notated Music Vocabulary Encoding Scheme to describe newly proposed extent elements, expanding instructions for recording titles that include music information, and further developing performance works and amalgamations in RDA as they pertain to musical performances. The group decided that the project on expanding instructions for recording titles that include music information would be a good first project for the group.

Membership
Following the RSC April meeting, the RSC Music Working Group welcomed Shulamit Ginzberg (Israel) to serve alongside existing members Chelsea Hoover (Chair), Maria Aslanidi, Erika Bercea, Maria Teresa Delgado, Daniel Paradis, Güneş Çetinkaya Şerik, Christoph Steiger, Erik van Balkum and *ex officio* members James Hennelly, Chris Holden and Elisa Sze. The Working Group Chair would be happy to hear from those responsible for music documentation who may be interested in joining the Working Group – particularly (but not exclusively) members of the wider cataloguing community outside the MLA and IAML communities.

Discussion Paper
The group continued to work on identifying RDA issues related to the description of music materials and is working on a discussion paper on expanding instructions for recording titles that include music information.

The RSC Music Advisory Working Group is currently finalizing a draft discussion paper that proposes adding condition options for recording titles that include music information in the elements **Manifestation: title of manifestation** and **Manifestation: title proper** to help make those instructions more complete.

A Working Group member noted in an earlier draft that adding condition options for **Manifestation: title of manifestation** could automatically apply to other narrower title elements such as **Manifestation: abbreviated title** and potentially create issues for those narrower elements. The Working Group therefore asked the Technical Team Liaison Officer whether these additional condition options would create issues for those narrower elements. He confirmed that those additional condition options would not create issues because individual groups could always specify in policy statements to not apply those condition options for elements such as **Manifestation: abbreviated title**.

The Working Group Chair is, therefore, coordinating the drafting of the Discussion Paper, with support as and when needed from the Technical Team Liaison Officer and RSC Secretary. It is the intention of the Working Group to submit the Discussion Paper to the Technical Team Liaison Officer in early January 2027 and the RSC Secretary has been alerted to expect the Discussion Paper to be ready for publication at the end of the first RSC Meeting of 2027 so that community consultation can take place for fruitful discussion by the RSC in the second RSC Meeting of 2027.