DAISY Music Braille Project:  
Steering Group Introductions

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# Introduction

Having received a good number of nominations from the sector, we are delighted to introduce our first Steering Group members selected for the project - eight experts with a good mix of skills and requirements to support the project.

Note 1: Steering Group members are committed to achieving the goals of the project and fulfilling the remit of the Steering Group as set out in the Call for Nominations dated 12 August 2019.

Note 2: representatives from the agencies/companies developing music braille tools were not permitted to join the steering group, but we look forward to working closely with them in other ways.

Note 3: Steering Group members do not have to be funders of the project (whether in cash or in kind), but they may be.

# Steering Group Members

In alphabetical order our Steering Group members are:

1. Juliette Appold, Head of Music Section, National Library Service, LOC, USA.
2. Carmen Bayarri Torrecillas, Director Bibliographic Service, ONCE, Spain.
3. Roger Beatty, Director Accessible Publishing, CNIB, Canada.
4. Nick Bowen, Bookshare Product Manager, Benetech, USA.
5. Lia Cariboni, Team Leader Braille Music Production, SBS, Switzerland.
6. Roger Firman, Chief Executive Golden Chord, & Vice-Chair of the UK Association for Accessible Formats, and Music Subject Area, UK.
7. Avneesh Singh, Chief Operating Officer – Strategy & Operations, DAISY, India.
8. Tor Sivert Gunnes, Advisor Braille Music Notation, Statped, Norway.

# Short Biographies (from their nomination forms)

## Juliette Appold, Head of Music Section, National Library Service, LOC, USA

As the Head of the NLS Music Section Juliette Appold oversees the NLS braille music collection development. Our goal is to best serve our patrons and to make available our collection digitally for immediate access. NLS would like to promote the creation of better tools for the production of braille music in order to improving efficiency, increase the quantity and quality of titles available and to reducing the time to produce. We communicate with braille music users on a daily basis. We work with certified braille music transcribers and with commercial vendors nationally and internationally to acquire digital braille music files. We also digitize our hard-copy braille music collection and are exploring ways to improve braille digitization. We are interested in contributing to the Steering Group in order to facilitate the development of a more efficient digital braille music production.

## Carmen Bayarri Torrecillas, Director Bibliographic Service, ONCE, Spain

Braille adaptation, including printed music, has been a priority for more than 80 years for ONCE. We share the concern with the project for the loss of opportunities for visually impaired and blind people in the music area and, in addition, for the lack of technical knowledge and technological tools that allow us greater autonomy. We want to join forces for a common good. We are aware that these types of initiatives must be worked globally to go further. It is important that the Spanish National Organisation of the Blind (ONCE) has a dialogue space to transfer their specific needs in this area. This task has been entrusted to me as Director of the Bibliographic Service, and ultimately responsible for everything related to text adaptation.

## Roger Beatty, Director Accessible Publishing, CNIB, Canada

The curation of the CNIB Music Braille collection falls under the Accessible Publishing mandate within CNIB. Personally, I have over 30 years of IT development and development management experience, including dealing with vendor companies, Statements of Work, Requirements Auditing and RFP's.

## Nick Bowen, Bookshare Product Manager, Benetech, USA

As the current Product Manager for Bookshare, I oversee the implementation of new features into Bookshare's systems including managing all technical requirements of ingesting, processing, and delivering the many file formats Bookshare supports. Additionally I work closely with the various technology partners of Bookshare building the reading systems, helping them handle our file formats as well as connecting to our technology. While I do hope to contribute to maximizing the effectiveness of the format, I do also hope to contribute in creating a compatible platform available to distribute these files, and help create an ecosystem of reading tools for users to experience these files.

## Lia Cariboni, Team Leader Braille Music Production, SBS, Switzerland

Lia has vast know how in Braille Music Production (20 years experience in producing Braille Music). She also acquired a wide network to people in other agencies that produce Braille Music and does have knowledge about the different standards that are being used in other countries than Switzerland. Lia has unique knowledge in working with Hodder almost on a daily basis and knows about its strengths and weaknesses. She is also a Music and Braille Music Teacher.

## Roger Firman, Chief Executive Golden Chord, & Vice-Chair of the UK Association for Accessible Formats, and Music, Subject Area, UK

The United Kingdom Association for Accessible Formats Music Subject Area (UKAAF/MSA) comprises 12 members all representing the highest expertise in the United Kingdom in their respective fields – printed music notation software, braille music, audio description of music scores, and strategies for teaching music notation to those with Dyslexia / Neurodiversity. The group also covers all aspects of music education, employment in the music business and music as a leisure activity. The group has also contributed as the UK voice on the DAISY Braille Music Project in general, and particularly regarding testing and feedback on the state of current braille music translation software. UKAAF/MSA also represents the UK on the International Council on English Braille (ICEB) Music Committee. The wide-ranging membership would be well placed to contribute to specific aspects of the steering group's work.

## Avneesh Singh, Chief Operating Officer – Strategy & Operations, DAISY, India

* Development of DAISY Consortium’s strategy and strategy implementation plan
* Spearheading development of the organization's operational plan in the direction determined by the strategy, while considering the changing environment
* Ensuring that all activities of the organization progress in the direction of organizational goals by monitoring of projects & processes, executing proactive actions and decisive interventions
* Facilitating board management, collecting and analyzing board's priorities, facilitating the board in making strategic decisions, progress reporting, preparation of the board meeting documents
* General management, change management, Strategic planning for establishing organization's identity, branding, financial management of projects etc.
* Setting priorities for strategic domains, identifying key projects, analyzing feasibility, assigning resources, improving market segmentation & penetration for products & services based on market research, implementing initiatives to serve DAISY members & users as per their changing needs
* Driving accessibility in publishing standards: member of Advisory Committee, World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), Chair of Accessibility task forces in W3C Publishing WG and EPUB 3 CG; coordinating ISO standardization of EPUB Accessibility specifications; member of LITD–15, Bureau of Indian Standards
* Driving development of worldwide inclusive publishing ecosystem by establishing and leveraging strategic partnerships with key stake holders in publishing industry
* Directing development of DAISY technology & systems for facilitating advancement of DAISY membership to inclusive publishing, while sustaining their current activities & business models
* Heading DAISY Consortium’s technical developments: developing open source tools, specifications, best practices, accessibility conformance strategies for accessible publishing & reading; propelling innovations for advance accessibility features like image descriptions

## Tor Sivert Gunnes, Advisor Braille Music Notation, Statped, Norway

I have learned the international Braille music notation, and its my daily job to produce music learning books for blind pupils. My job is also to teach music teachers who are teaching blind pupils in Braille music notation. I have been an active music teacher for many years, and have been teaching kids and adults in general music, but also instrument teaching. I am an active musician and I play different string instruments such as violin and guitar and other strings. I think I can give many good inputs with developing pedagogics and improve the results. I am also very interested in music and new technology and new ways to learn music.