



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND
DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (IAML)

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES, ARCHIVES ET
CENTRES DE DOCUMENTATION MUSICAUX (AIBM)

INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DES MUSIKBIBLIOTHEKEN,
MUSIKARCHIVE UND MUSIKDOKUMENTATIONSZENTREN (IVMB)

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Roger Flury
President
International Association of Music Libraries,
Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML),
P.O. Box 1467,
Wellington 6144
NEW ZEALAND

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On behalf of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML), I am writing to express, in the strongest possible terms, our opposition to the proposed closure of the Netherlands Broadcasting Music Center.

A country is ultimately defined by its culture. The calibre of that culture, as well as its health and prosperity, is dependent on reliable and ongoing funding from the state. Only in that way can there be the freedom to experiment, to expand horizons, to establish standards and to educate both present and future generations of musicians and audiences. National funding supports the national good.

For more than 60 years, the Netherlands Broadcasting Music Center has shone as a beacon of musical excellence. It has set standards to which others aspire. It has developed world-class orchestral and choral ensembles that contribute to the musical fabric of the Netherlands. Through its efforts and accomplishments, the Netherlands Broadcasting Music Center has become the major pillar upholding a Dutch musical platform that is the envy of the world.

Supporting all of this is the music library, too often the unsung hero of the music profession. But any musician will tell you that without this library foundation and the professional services that it provides, the platform and pillars will collapse. One cannot survive without the other.

The Netherlands Broadcasting Music Center brings enormous credit to the country and its people. It is a showcase of the very finest aspects of Dutch musical life. The removal of funding and the inevitable dismantling of the Netherlands Broadcasting Music Center and its library is an act of cultural terrorism that simply must not be allowed to happen.

Roger Flury
President
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and Documentation Centres (IAML)