



## **Belgium / België / Belgique**

### **Belgian Federal institutions and Belgian French-speaking institutions or members**

#### **Membership**

In May 2017, the Belgian Federal institutions with IAML membership are: the Royal Library of Belgium and the Musical Instruments Museum (MIM). The Belgian French-speaking institutions are: the research centre 'Musiques & Recherches', the conservatories of Brussels, Mons, and Liège, as well as Brussels, Louvain, and Liège universities.

#### **Acquisitions**

In 2017, the Royal Conservatory of Liège received the musical library of the Belgian soprano and teacher Greta De Reyghere, who specialized in early music and Baroque music.

In December 2016, the Royal Library of Belgium ([www.kbr.be](http://www.kbr.be)) had the opportunity to acquire by donation a new important collection: the Fonds Toots Thielemans, named after the Belgian musician who passed away on 22 August 2016 at the age of 94. The collection consists of hundreds of sound recordings (78rpm, vinyl records and CDs) and thousands of documents such as photographs, press articles, scores, letters and concert programmes. The "Fonds Toots Thielemans" makes it possible to discover and study the career of this world-famous musician who conquered the world with his harmonica and guitar on many recordings (records, CDs, films) and in concerts.

The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM, [www.mim.be](http://www.mim.be)) has preserved since 2016 the Christian Poché (1938-2010) Collection, by the name of the French journalist and ethnomusicologist who specialized in Arabic music. This collection contains 6,000 books devoted to music produced all around the world, especially in Arabic countries.

#### **Digitization**

In 2016-2017, the Royal Library has significantly increased the number of its digitized music sources. This institution continued the digitization of the Fétis Collection; by May 2017, 2,429 Fétis references have been digitized and published online (310,378 pages). In parallel, the Royal Library extended its program of digitization of music documents published in Belgium during the 19th and 20th centuries, including concert programs from the Théâtre de la Monnaie (1813-1835). Finally, the library started the digitization of its collection of sound recordings. Within this new project, the Royal Library is making significant efforts in the production of descriptive metadata while a private partner, the Belgian company Memnon Archiving Systems, is carrying out the digitization. So far, about 6,802 recordings have been described and delivered to the subcontractor while 4,565 have been digitized (535 hours of music). The Royal Conservatory of Brussels also continued its digitization project, led by researchers' and musicians' demands.

#### **Cataloguing**

Musiques & Recherches continued cataloguing for the database [Électrodoc](#). This database includes books, periodicals, electro-acoustic works, and audio and audio-visual formats. It covers more than 12,000 works.

Since September 2016, the library of the Royal Conservatories of Brussels catalogued using a new software generating descriptions within the [online catalogue](#).

The library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège continued cataloguing the Eric Mathot Collection (acquired in May 2015) within its [OPAC](#) and now provides more than 2,500 descriptions for this institution.

The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) library continued to add new data to its catalogue, not only reference books but also music scores and since 2016 videos produced by the team of the MIM in the framework of research projects or concerts given within the institution. The iconographic material was described within the [general catalogue](#) of the Royal Museums of Art and History.

## Projects

To promote their musical heritage, the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and the Royal Library of Belgium organised concerts and exhibitions presenting musical sources from their collections; some sources are also studied in the framework of pedagogical projects developed within the institutions or in partnership with other institutions. During the academic year 2016–2017, students from the Ancient Music Section of the Royal Conservatory of Brussels finalised the critical edition of a manuscript kept in the library's institution and played the work during a concert as part of their programme of study. The same institution organized two exhibitions, one devoted to the Spanish pianist Eduardo del Pueyo (between November 2016 and June 2017), the other dedicated to Georg Philipp Telemann, in the context of the Telemann Year (between March and December 2017). This last event gave the opportunity to highlight the Telemann manuscripts collection preserved in the Royal Conservatory, which were also presented via a [virtual exhibition](#). In order to promote music sources preserved in the Royal Conservatory of Brussels some Wikipedia pages were created, presenting collections such as 'Fonds Maria Malibran' and 'Fonds Józef Wieniawski'.

Marie Cornaz (Royal Library of Belgium) was member of the scientific committee of the exhibition 'Elisabeth. Passion for the arts' that took place in the Brussels Royal Palace during the summer 2016. This exhibition underlined the particular role played by Queen Elisabeth (1876–1965) in the Belgian musical world of her time (by funding the Queen Elisabeth Music Competition and the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel), showing music scores, instruments and also documents recently discovered in the archives of the Royal Palace (for instance two autographs by Camille Saint-Saëns).

In 2016–2017, the research centre 'Musiques & Recherches' organized concerts, training and masterclasses in order to promote Acousmatic music.

In continuation of Mons 2015, European Capital of Culture, researchers from the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and the Royal Library worked together to produce two books that will be published by Brepols. In this context, the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) in partnership with the GEMCA (Group of Early Modern Cultural Analysis) organized in Louvain-la-Neuve, in March 2017, a congress entitled "Faire entendre le spectaculaire dans l'ancien comté de Hainaut".

During the academic year 2016–2017, the course Patrimoine musical belge. Questions de recherche, given by Marie Cornaz and followed by students from the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Université catholique de Louvain, focused on the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel and its history by studying unknown archival documents kept in the Royal Palace in Brussels and in the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel and by comparing these documents with items preserved in the Music Division of the Royal Library. At the same time, the Université catholique de Louvain and its research centre CERMUS (Centre de recherche en musicologie) instigated PhD dissertations on Belgian music heritage with themes such as "Music at the court of Leopold I of Belgium" or "Music repertory of the Fanfare orchestras".

Valérie Dufour (ULB) co-directed with Emmanuel Reibel (Université de Lyon II) the "[Dictionnaire numérique des écrits de compositeurs](#)".

## Publications

Valérie Dufour (ULB) co-directed with Laurence Brogniez (ULB) the publication of the volume 'Entretiens d'artistes. Poétique et pratiques' (Paris, 2016, 267 pages).

## **RILM and RISM**

The Music Division of the Royal Library is the Belgian office for the international RILM and RISM projects. On a regular basis, the team adds Belgian publications to the international database of music literature. From 2012 it also resumed the encoding of descriptions in RISM, using the database software Kallisto and then Muscat.

Marie Cornaz

Royal Library, Brussels (May 2017)