

Resources in New York and Belgium related to Eugène Ysaÿe

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Summary:

This paper presents a perspective linking the collections of materials related to Eugène Ysaÿe (1858 – 1931) that can be found at public institutions in Belgium and New York. The resources are housed among the Royal Library of Belgium and Brussels Royal Conservatory in Brussels; the Liège Royal Conservatory, Studio Eugène Ysaÿe, and Ulysse Capitaine Library in Liège; and The Juilliard School, Morgan Library and Museum, and New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in New York.

High quality digitization of archives and resources today allows for previously unimaginable levels of ease and access in music research. Some resources are even made publicly available, in whole, via the Internet, through trustworthy and curated vehicles such as The Juilliard Manuscript Collection, The Morgan Library website, and *Belgica* of the Royal Library of Belgium.

For example, among the resources in the Peter Jay Sharp Special Collections at The Juilliard School, some of which are featured within The Juilliard Manuscript Collection website, are several important manuscripts by Eugène Ysaÿe. The great Belgian violinist, who was extraordinarily influential as a violinist at the turn of the 20th century, has a legacy that continues to reverberate particularly strongly through his violin compositions. In fact, The Juilliard School houses what is probably the largest number of rare materials related to Ysaÿe outside of Belgium. Louis Persinger (1887 – 1966), who studied with Ysaÿe, and went on to become a leading American pedagogue, taught at The Juilliard School from 1930 to 1966. His collection forms the core of the Ysaÿe materials at Juilliard, centering on several manuscripts that are part of the famous Six Sonatas for solo violin, Op. 27. We also find that other valuable materials related to Ysaÿe are found in New York, and these items once belonged to other notable students of Ysaÿe: Viola Mitchell (1911 – 2002), Jeannette Dincin Ysaÿe (1902 – 1967), and Remo Bolognini (1898 – 1977).

No matter the advancements in digitization and access, however, forming an overview of these Ysaÿe materials, especially when resources are spread out across libraries and across countries, benefits from expertise and guidance. One needs to know, for example, that the manuscript titled “Deuxième Sonate Pour le Violon Seul par Eugène Ysaÿe” at the Royal Library of Belgium, is actually a sketch of the Fourth Sonata. Likewise, in the case of Ysaÿe, there are corollary materials such as his students’ marked-up

published scores, which often do not enjoy as much attention. However, for some researchers, such materials can be extremely important, and the discussion will cover those resources as well, highlighting some connections to the more prominent manuscript resources.

Below is a list of the institutions discussed, with the URLs of the online catalogs along with a note of the highlights of Ysaÿe resources at each library.

The Juilliard School (RISM siglum: US-NYj)

<http://library.juilliard.edu/>

The Juilliard Manuscript Collection

<http://juilliardmanuscriptcollection.org/>

<http://juilliardmanuscriptcollection.org/composers/ysaye-eugene/>

Highlights: Manuscripts of Sonata for solo violin Nos. 2, 3, and 6, juvenile works, sketchbooks, in the Peter Jay Sharp Special Collections; the collections of Louis Persinger, Viola Mitchell, and Jeannette Dincin Ysaÿe

The Morgan Library & Museum (RISM siglum: US-NYpm)

<http://corsair.themorgan.org/>

Highlights: Manuscripts of Ysaÿe's improvisations on Beethoven's Violin Concerto, an orchestra arrangement by Ysaÿe of Vieuxtemps' Rondino, an essay on Beethoven, programs, and several letters.

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts (RISM siglum: US-NYp)

<http://catalog.nypl.org/>

<http://archives.nypl.org/mus/20374>

Highlights: Remo Bolognini papers, album-leaves, Ysaÿe's calling card, card for Ysaÿe's funeral service, Fondation Ysaÿe newsletters, and several letters.

Royal Library of Belgium (KBR) (RISM siglum: B-Br)

<http://opac.kbr.be/index.php?lang=FR>

KBR Belgica

http://belgica.kbr.be/fr/search/search_fr.html

Highlights: Many manuscripts, including among them the manuscripts for *Poème élégiaque*, *Au Rouet*, *Neiges d'antan*, *Harmonies du Soir*, and a sketch for Sonata for solo violin No. 4, a comprehensive collection of first edition printed scores, and hundreds of letters.

Brussels Royal Conservatory (RISM siglum: B-Bc)

<http://www.muzebib.be/bib/>

Highlights: A manuscript of *Au Rouet*, and several letters, mostly from Ysaÿe to Joseph Jongen the Belgian composer and Director of the Conservatory between the years 1925-1939.

Liège Royal Conservatory (RISM siglum: B-Lc)

http://bibli.student-crlg.be/opac_css/

Highlights: Many manuscripts, including among them the manuscripts for Sonata for solo violin Nos. 4, 5, and 6, *Amitié*, essays, sketches, dozens of letters.

Studio Eugène Ysaÿe at the Grand Curtius Museum

<http://www.grandcurtiusliege.be/votre-visite/parcours-chronologique/le-xixe-siecle-de-12019eclectisme-a-12019art-nouveau/studio-eugene-ysaye>

Highlights: Several printers proofs, inscribed autograph manuscript of d'Indy's String Quartet No. 1, programs, brochures, and a passport.

Ulysse Capitaine Library of the city of Liège

<http://www.liege.be/culture/bibliotheque-ulysses-capitaine-buc/bibliotheque-ulysses-capitaine-buc>

Highlights: Manuscript for the Second Trio for violin, viola and cello.

Brief Curriculum Vitae:

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Degrees:

DMA: The Juilliard School [May 2004]

MM: The Juilliard School [May 1999]

BM: The Juilliard School [May 1998]

Third (Final) level Masters degree in Chamber Music, with “highest distinction,” June 2004, Koninklijk Muziekconservatorium Brussel [Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music]

Third (Final) level Masters degree in Violin, with “highest distinction,” June 2000 Koninklijk Muziekconservatorium Brussel [Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music]

Conferences:

Participant at the Convegno di Festival Paganiniano di Carro 2012 “LA ‘SCUOLA VIOLINISTICA FRANCO-BELGA’ DA G.B. VIOTTI A E. YSAÏE”

Guest lecturer at the 2011 Starling-DeLay Symposium on Violin Studies

Doctoral Forum lecture at The Juilliard School “Resting in His Hand: Ysaÿe’s Legacy Revealed” December 12, 2006

Publications:

G. Henle Verlag:

Henryk Wieniawski: *Scherzo-Tarantella* g-moll Op. 16

Editor: Ray Iwazumi Fing. vn: Ray Iwazumi

Urtext Edition, paperbound

string part with the original markings, and an additional one marked by the editor

String:

A monthly serial column (from September 2008 to November 2012) in Japanese, for the Japanese music journal *String* concerning Eugène Ysaÿe, analytical and musicological issues in the Six Solo Sonatas of Ysaÿe, and issues in violin playing.

MLA Notes:

An article, in English, “The Legacy of Eugène Ysaÿe: Transmitted, Adapted, and Reinterpreted,” for *MLA Notes* (September 2010), concerning the materials that once belonged to two of Ysaÿe’s favored American pupils: Louis Persinger, and Viola Mitchell.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België:

Research references and live recorded performances included in the official book published on the occasion for the 150th anniversary exhibition of Eugène Ysaÿe (2008) presented at the Royal Library of Belgium. The booklet is published by the Royal Library of Belgium in both French and Dutch versions. (ISBN: 2-87093-165-4)

The Strad Magazine:

An article, in English, “Going Metric,” for the *The Strad Magazine* (June 2005 edition) concerning meter and rhythm misprint issues in the Six Solo Sonatas of Eugène Ysaÿe.

Ongaku Gendai:

An article, in Japanese, “Celebrating Ysaÿe’s 150th Anniversary,” for the Japanese music journal *Ongaku Gendai*, (October 2008 edition).

The Juilliard Journal:

An article, in English, “Researching the 6 Solo Violin Sonatas of Eugène Ysaÿe,” for *The Juilliard Journal*, (February 2005 issue (Vol. XX No. 5)).

Peer Music:

A corrected and re-edited version of the Violin Concerto by Manuel Ponce (published by Peer Music International) in 1998.

Biography:

Dr. Ray Iwazumi pursues a concert career that is highly unusual with its intense combination of virtuosity, scholarship, research, and performance. In particular, his in-depth research on Eugène Ysaÿe's Six Sonates pour violon seul, Op. 27 has brought forth significant findings on these landmark masterworks, and his concerts and CD of these works have been critically acclaimed. He also shares his leading expertise of this repertoire through lectures and lecture-performances and has written several articles on the subject, featured in *The Strad*, *MLA Notes*, and a multi-year monthly series in the Japanese journal *String*. In particular, the article series in *String* includes a close examination of the extant rare materials of the Ysaÿe solo sonatas, and is currently the largest and most comprehensive analysis and guide, in any language, for the Ysaÿe solo sonatas.

Ray has also presented his research through featured lectures and presentations at institutions such as the Brussels Royal Conservatory (Brussels, Belgium), CAMEC (La Spezia, Italy), Orpheus Institute (Ghent, Belgium), The Juilliard School (New York, USA), and Yamaha Ginza (Tokyo, Japan). He is on faculty at The Juilliard School, and is currently in charge of the Violin Department Seminar.

Highly sought after as an authority on the music of Ysaÿe, he has presented lecture-performances on Ysaÿe prepared specifically for violin pedagogues at the international *Starling-DeLay Symposium*. An innovative combination lecture-performance-masterclass-article series on the topic of several of the Ysaÿe solo sonatas is being planned for this Fall (2014) in Tokyo, Japan.

Ray has cataloged the rare materials and manuscripts in the Louis Persinger Collection, Viola Mitchell Collection, and Jeannette Ysaÿe Collection at The Juilliard School. Recent research includes work toward an understanding of Ysaÿe's legacy as transmitted through his disciples, notably, Louis Persinger, Viola Mitchell, and Jeannette Dincin Ysaÿe. He is also active as an editor of critical editions, and has edited the Urtext edition of Wieniawski's *Scherzo-Tarantella*, Op. 16 for G. Henle Verlag, released in late 2013.

Ray Iwazumi's artistic dedication finds expression in his multi-faceted career. As a violinist, he performs numerous concerts in the U.S.A. and abroad, and as a composer, he has been showcased in noted series such as the *Beyond the Machine* festivals at Lincoln Center and the *Music In Style* series in Japan.

website: <http://www.rayiwazumi.com>