



Gothenburg 2024-04-17

Dear Professor Cook,

I write on behalf of members of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) to express support for your efforts to secure continued institutional hosting for the Hofmeister XIX database.

As you know, IAML has a longstanding interest and involvement in the Hofmeister XIX project. The project itself arose from discussions held under the auspices of the IAML Working Group on Hofmeister XIX, formed in 1987 and chaired between 1991 and 2010 by Chris Banks. Members of the Working Group took an active role in formulating the scope and objectives for the project, leading to the successful bid for funding to the AHRC's Resource Enhancement Scheme in 2004.

IAML owes a large debt of gratitude to Royal Holloway, University of London, and Kings College London, for hosting and maintaining the database over the past 16 years. For librarians and archivists, it represents an indispensable tool for cataloguing printed music published in German-speaking countries and Europe more widely in the nineteenth century. It facilitates the dating of printed music to a much greater degree of accuracy and more efficiently than was previously possible, thereby making a very significant contribution to promoting knowledge and access to library and archival collections worldwide. It also helps to locate our collections in the wider context of publishing trends and shifting musical tastes, thereby constituting an essential and unique resource for our users and researchers internationally.

Due to the above mentioned reasons, it is crucial that a sustainable hosting solution will be found in order to secure access to the database for the long term. Please rest assured of our continued engagement and support for the maintenance and development of Hofmeister XIX.

Kind regards,

Pia Shekhter