

## **Belgium / België / Belgique**

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

#### **Membership**

In May 2018, the Belgian Federal institutional IAML members 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, and the universities of Brussels, Louvain and Liège.

#### **Acquisitions**

In 2017-2018, The Royal Conservatory of Brussels acquired two music archives linked to Belgian composers Alex De Taeye (1898-1952) and Marcel Quinet (1915-1986).

In February and March 2018, the Royal Library of Belgium ([www.kbr.be](http://www.kbr.be)) had the opportunity to acquire by donation handwritten and printed documents concerning Belgian composers Gaston Knosp (1874-1942) and Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931). For the latter, in May 2018 the institution bought three manuscripts: the autograph score *Poème élégiaque* arranged for two pianos, the complete score *Étude-Poème* op. 9 and the autograph score of *Petite fantaisie romantique*. Until now, only the violin part of the *Étude Poème* had been known and the only source of the *Petite fantaisie romantique* was a photocopy.

Acquisitions at the Library of the Royal Conservatory of Mons were concentrated on supporting the various classes of the institution (singing, cello, chamber music, guitar and psycho-pedagogy).

#### **Digitization**

In 2017-2018, the Royal Library continued its programme of digitization projects concerning music. Starting in 2016, with the digitization of the Fétis Collection; by May 2018, 3,222 Fétis references have been digitized and published online (336,998 pages). In 2018, the Royal Library started the digitization of its Eugène Ysaÿe Collection. Finally, the Library continued the digitization of its collection of sound recordings. Up to now, about 30,000 recordings have been described in the general catalogue and delivered to the subcontractor while 11,631 have been digitized (about 800 hours of music). This project should be completed by the end of 2020.

The Royal Conservatory of Brussels also continued its digitization programme, which is led by the demands of researchers and musicians.

#### **Cataloguing**

Musiques & Recherches extended the database [Électrodoc](#). This database includes books, periodicals, electro-acoustic works, and audio-visual formats. It describes more than 12,000 works as well as 6,000 books and articles.

In 2017-2018, the library of the Royal Conservatories of Brussels continued to encode new descriptions (both retrospective and new acquisitions) visible through the online catalogue, <http://catalog.b-bc.org>.

The library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège finished cataloguing the Eric Mathot Collection (acquired in May 2015) providing more than 4,000 catalogue descriptions.

The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) library added new data to its catalogue, including reference books, music scores and ethnomusicological films produced by retired collaborator Wim Bosmans. The iconographic material was included in the general catalogue of the Royal Museums of Art and History (<http://www.carmentis.be>). The library of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) changed its encoding software, and is now using Alma (Ex Libris).

## **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 within the framework of pedagogical projects developed by these institutions or in partnership with others. During the academic year 2017-2018, for instance, students had to complete the thematic catalogue of the Belgian composer and violinist Pascal-Dieudonné Pieltain (1754-1833), following the acquisition by the Royal Conservatory of Brussels Library of all his manuscripts (with more than 170 quartets and 30 violin concertos). The Royal Conservatory of Brussels website hosted the presentation of the collections kept in the library (<http://www.conservatoire.be/la-bibliotheque/collections>).

In 2017-2018, the research centre 'Musiques & Recherches' organized concerts, trainings and masterclasses in order to promote the electro-acoustic music. The centre created a page on the streaming platform "Soundcloud" (<https://soundcloud.com/influx-acousmatic>).

The Université libre de Bruxelles organized a congress in Brussels in March 2018, entitled "Music and Identity-Construction: The National Churches in the Southern Low Countries and Rome (16th-17th Centuries)" and the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) and its research centre CERMUS (Centre de recherche en musicologie) organized a congress in April 2018 presenting and studying the cello suites by Bach.

During the academic year 2017-2018, the course Patrimoine musical belge. Questions de recherche, followed by students from the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Université de Liège, focused on the students of the Belgian violinist and composer Eugène Ysaÿe at the Brussels Conservatory (between 1886 and 1898). The results of the project, based on archival documents kept in the library of the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and on digitized press reports, were put on a dedicated Wikipedia page called "Liste d'élèves d'Ysaÿe". At the same time, the Université catholique de Louvain developed within the course Recherche historique en musicologie a research project on the music archives of the Saint-Julien parish church in Ath.

## **Publications**

Valérie Dufour (ULB) co-directed with Paul Aron and Laurence Brogniez (ULB) the publication of the volume 'BruCSEL Brussel's Creation, Spectacles, Entertainment Locations: Essai de situation et de combinaison, clichés chronologiques de la proximité et de l'évolution des lieux de culture et de mobilité (XVIIIe - XXIe siècles)', available online, <http://difusion.ulb.ac.be/vufind/Record/ULB-DIPOT:oai:dipot.ulb.ac.be:2013/257715/Holdings>.

## **RILM and RISM**

The Music Division of the Royal Library is the Belgian centre for the international RILM and RISM projects. The team adds Belgian publications to the international database of music literature on a regular basis. Since 2012 it also resumed the encoding of descriptions in RISM, first using database software Kallisto, followed by Muscat.

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Royal Library, Brussels (June 2018)