

Belgium / België / Belgique (Belgian Federal institutions and Belgian French-speaking institutions or members) Report 2019

Membership

In May 2019, the Belgian Federal institutions being 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 universities of Brussels, Louvain and Liège.

Acquisitions

In 2018-2019, the Royal Library of Belgium (www.kbr.be) received by bequest manuscripts, printed documents and iconographic material concerning the Belgian pianist Janine Reding-Piette and her musician ancestors (19th-20th centuries).

The library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège received a donation of valuable 18th century printed scores.

Digitization

In 2018-2019, the Royal Library continued its rolling programme of digitisation concerning music, with 119 new references (23,886 pages) from the Fétis collection, 511 items of Belgian sheet music from the 19th and 20 centuries (7,281 pages) and finally 6,711 shellac discs from the Becko and Danval sound collections (895 hours of recorded music).

The Royal Conservatory of Brussels too continued its digitisation projects, led by demand from researchers and musicians.

Cataloguing

In 2018-2019, Musiques & Recherches entered more than 200 new works and publications into the database [Électrodoc](#). This database includes books, periodicals, electro-acoustic works, and audio-visual formats. The library of the Royal Conservatories of Brussels continued to encode new descriptions (retro and new acquisitions) visible through the [online catalogue](#). Nearly half of the collections of the library of the Royal Conservatory of Mons was entered into its catalogue. The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) library started to use Libis for cataloguing. The library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège encoded nearly 1,000 new entries; the librarian of this institution, Philippe Gilson, retired during the year.

Projects

To promote their musical heritage, the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and the Royal Library of Belgium organised concerts and exhibitions presenting musical sources kept in their collections. Some sources are also studied within the framework of pedagogical projects developed within each institution or in partnership with other institutions. During the academic year 2018-2019, students of the violin and the voice departments of the Royal Conservatory of Brussels worked together with the Royal Library of Belgium to schedule a performance on 22 March 2019 presenting musical works and letters by the Belgian violinist and composer Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931). The website of the Royal Conservatory of Brussels was completed by a [virtual exhibition](#) devoted to the Marcel Quinet collection kept in the library.

In 2018-2019, the research centre 'Musiques & Recherches' organised concerts, training and masterclasses in order to promote electro-acoustic music. The centre created a page on the streaming platform "[Soundcloud](#)".

During the academic year 2018-2019, the course Patrimoine musical belge : Questions de recherche, followed by the students from the Université libre de Bruxelles, the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) and the Université de Liège, focused on the Belgian violinist and composer Henry Vieuxtemps, through the study of letters and scores preserved at the Royal Library of Belgium. At the same time, the Université catholique de Louvain developed within its research centre CERMUS (Centre de recherche en musicologie) the study of music collections and archives of Mariemont, Bois-du-Luc, Ath and Mons.

Publications

In 2018-2019, the printed series launched by the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (French-speaking division) since 2014 and published by [Castejon Music Editions released a new publication, presenting the Solo a Flauto traverso con cembalo by Georg Zarth](#), a source preserved in the institution, with a preface by Olivia Wahnon de Oliveira (French-speaking Librarian of the Brussels Conservatory).

RILM and RISM

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

Marie Cornaz

Royal Library, Brussels (June 2019)