

Czech Republic National Report 2019

In 2019, The Czech National IAML Branch (ČNS IAML) has 27 members: 1 personal member, and 26 institutional members from the Bohemia and Moravia regions, of which 12 significant libraries and documentation centres are also international members.

Colleagues from other music libraries and music departments, as well as colleagues from associated institutions, regularly participate in the events administered or co-administered by the Czech National Branch.

In 2020, the Czech National Branch will host the IAML Congress in Prague and we are already very busy with this!

Events, sessions

The most recent plenary session of the Czech National Branch took place on 23 and 24 October 2018 in the National Library in Prague. The main topic of the session was 100 years of the Czechoslovak Republic. We also warmly welcomed the two attendees from abroad: Stanislaw Hrabia, IAML President, from Poland, and Anna Žilková, President of the Slovak Branch of IAML.

The programme of this event covered information on the proceedings from the International IAML Congress in Leipzig in 2018 and information on the preparations for the IAML Congress in 2020 in Prague. The session included a concert and exhibition focused on Josef Bohuslav Foerster (1859 – 1951), a prominent Czech composer.

On 25 and 26 September 2018, Zoja Seyčková attended the annual IAML session in Slovak Republic in Košice. We took the opportunity to exchange a lot of information and experience from Slovak and Czech musical libraries.

On 24 and 25 April 2019, the music librarians had a meeting in Brno, where for the last 20 years the Jiří Mahen's Library has held a seminar. The theme of the seminar was Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, a chateau which was a centre for opera in Moravia in the first half of the 18th Century. We also visited the Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, where the first Italian operas were performed.

At the meeting, Zoja Seyčková presented information about plans for upcoming activities, most importantly of the IAML Congress in Prague in 2020. Eva Paulová presented information about the project "Nový fonograf / New phonograph".

On 24 and 25 October 2019, The Ostrava City Library will host an annual IAML session. The programme of this upcoming event will also include information on the proceedings from the 2019 International IAML Congress in Krakow. The Ostrava will be one of the two cities (together with Brno), who will organize the post-congress excursions to these Moravia towns with long musical tradition.

Blanka Ellederová, a new head of the Music Department of the Municipal Library in Prague, was elected in Leipzig as a new chair of the Public Libraries Section. As a result of the section's professional program in Leipzig and following discussion, the new section's chair was invited to Dresden where she attended the German Music Public Library Section's working meeting and symposium "Music in Public Libraries" with an important discussion "No(w) future?"(!) aimed at the adoption of a "Dresden Memorandum of Public Music Libraries". Our German colleagues set us an example worth following and we shared related ideas among our colleagues in the Czech Republic.

Other activities

The portal Virtual National Phonotheque of the Czech Republic was moved into the National Library of Technology in Prague, which promised to provide technical support and to collaborate with the National Museum to bring quality content in a user-friendly way. The portal aggregates metadata records from 24 institutions – libraries and others – including Czech TV, Supraphon, and Czech Radio. There are about 500,000 records and these will be added to during 2019, mainly from the Czech Radio Archive and other cultural institutions.

The National Museum of the Czech Republic received 5 years' research funding for the project New Phonograph: Listen to the History of Sound.

The project addresses problems facing cultural heritage institutions, resulting from the lack of standardized procedures for the long-term protection and accessibility of audio content stored on media that cannot be played by modern technologies.

Solutions will be demonstrated on two types of historical media, focusing specifically on phonograph cylinder and on 25cm standard gramophone records. As these are the oldest recording media, the sound recordings stored on them usually have a high historical and cultural value and original reproduction technology is often inaccessible to the general public.

Our main objective is to develop, test and implement appropriate procedures to address the complex issues of long-term protection and access to audio stored on historical physical media, in line with international standards and practice, and based on existing research in the field.

There are three cooperating partners: the National Library of the Czech Republic, Masaryk University in Brno, and the Library of the Academy of Science.

The National Library of the Czech Republic is involved in two projects: the first is a research project to process the musical collections deposited in different locations in the Czech Republic; the second is the digitisation of selected musical materials and making them accessible in an [online database Manuscriptorium](#). The Library is cooperating with RISM for both of these projects.

Thematic catalogues are also being published as a part of these projects.

Educational activities

Excursions for students of Musicology in Prague and Brno and Olomouc, and Academy of Arts in Prague and Brno, Conservatories in Prague, Brno, Pilsen, Pardubice, Ostrava.

Contributions to Recent Publications in Music

Results of the projects in the magazine *Knihovna. Knihovnická revue/Library. Librarian's Revue*.

Contributions to Fontes

Information on new published volumes of [Critical Edition of Bohuslav Martinů Works](#), prepared by Bohuslav Martinů Institute.

Advocacy • Copyright

Negotiations with Copyright Authors' Associations; publishers' requirements to solve certain problems of printed scores

Recruitment

Employees of all musical libraries and archives will be involved in the Congress IAML 2020 in Prague

R-projects

RILM

Pavel Kordík

RidIM

Eva Paulová – Czech Museum of Music

RISM

Zuzana Petrášková – Music Department of the National Library of the Czech Republic – active cooperation with RISM and projects of the National Library (see above)

Web Projects

[ČNS IAML has its own Facebook page](#), where announcements of upcoming meetings and other information on our activities is shown:

Website

[ČNS IAML has its own website](#)

Czech Branch listserv

The Czech Branch has its own listserv which helps to improve communication between a large number of musical libraries and archives.

Zoja Seyčková

President, IAML (Czech Republic)



