

Lithuania National Report 2019

In 2018, the Music and Visual Arts Unit at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania developed, maintained and streamlined the documentary collection of music and visual arts, promoted the usage of the National Library's collection of music and visual arts resources and related services as well as carried out dissemination of the documentary heritage, participated in the long-term IAML programmes RILM and RISM, initiated and implemented published music heritage related projects.

In the Music and Music and Visual Arts Reading Room, a free-of-charge service package has been updated and adapted to the visitors' needs:

- the Half-Hour Music Service has been organized for teachers of general education and music schools: in a half-hour, information is provided to match the participant's enquiry (about a composer, performer, musical creation or the history of sound recordings);
- courses on music composition and editing;
- the basic music education programme for socially sensitive groups (seniors) "An Hour for Music-Making: Step-by-Step".

For the promotion of the documentary heritage, we employ promotion and communication means of current importance that reach target audiences in the most efficient ways, such as the media project LT1918, of which the National Library was a participant. During this project, the National Library publicized early sound recordings from its collection and presented historical material about them for publication. We presented in detail the shellac recording of the earliest known recording of the Lithuanian national anthem (1910), the single copy of which is preserved at the National Library.

Since June 2018, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania has been implementing a project financed by the European Union's Regional Development Funds "The Development of the Virtual Cultural Space Responding to Public Needs". This project, with a duration of 36 months, is being realized together with partners that comprise twenty four memory, cultural and educational institutions. The project's purpose is to provide more effective and explicit information in searches for cultural objects, more interactive presentation of cultural content information and more large-scale promotion of the cultural heritage content. Nine new electronic services are under development, which would facilitate discovery, aggregation, maintenance and use of the cultural content. Two of these services are directly related to musical documents: introducing licensing specifications to users and providing them with a possibility to perform digitized sheet music scores (Lithuanian sheet music from the period of the Lithuanian National Renaissance (1905–1917)). The [Virtual Electronic Heritage System](#) will be supplemented with 700 shellac records (1,410 musical works), 290 sound cassettes (3,090 works) from 1980–2010 and 90 sheet music publications with 900 works. At present, the "epaveldas" portal contains over 11 thousand sound recordings.

2019 is the year of implementation of the project partly financed by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania "The Creation and Delivery to the [Lithuanian Digital Cultural Heritage Portal](#) of Talking Books from the Creative Heritage of Vaižgantas", devoted to the 150th anniversary of the Lithuanian writer, literary historian and social figure Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas. Within this project, 72 lesser known of Vaižgantas's texts – fiction, letters, memoirs, humorous works and travelogues – will be recorded. The talking books will be presented on the Virtual Electronic Heritage Portal and become freely accessible to the general public.

In 2018, there were articles in the international and national press regarding musical heritage artefacts preserved at the National Library or the content otherwise related to this heritage: Tarp knygy, "*Fontes Artis Musicae*", and *Lietuvos muzikos paveldo tyrimai* ("*Researches of Lithuanian Music Heritage*"). We also delivered presentations:

- "The role of early sound recordings on the way the restoration of State independence" at a conference at the Kaunas City Museum
- "US ethnic piano rolls. The case of Lithuanian music recordings" at the conference held by the Association of Recorded Sound Collectors in Baltimore (USA)
- "Ethnic piano rolls" at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture" and "An idea of Lithuanian independence and early Lithuanian music recordings in the United States" at the conference organized by the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies at Stanford University (USA).

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