

## **Belgium / België / Belgique National Report 2020**

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

*Submitted by Marie Cornaz.*

#### **Membership**

In May 2020, 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, as well as Brussels, Louvain and Liège universities.

#### **Acquisitions**

In 2019–2020, the [Royal Library of Belgium](#) had the opportunity to acquire new iconographic material concerning Eugène Ysaÿe and an autograph score by César Franck.

The library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège continued to acquire printed scores linked to the activities of the different classes of the institution and received by donation the music libraries of the Spanish composer Rafael Diaz (1943-) and of the city of Spa.

#### **Digitization**

In 2019–2020, the Royal Library continued its running digitization projects concerning music, with 171 references (30,432 pages) from the Fétis collection, 445 units of Belgian music sheets from the Eugène Ysaÿe collection (13,125 pages) and finally 6,192 shellac discs from the Becko and Danval sound collections (765 hours of recorded music).

The Royal Conservatory of Brussels too continued its digitization project, according to the researchers and musicians demands.

#### **Cataloguing**

In 2019–2020, Musiques & Recherches continued to describe 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 catalog](#). The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) library continued to use Libis for cataloguing. The library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège encoded nearly 2,500 new entries; Stéphanie Fruzzetti is the new librarian of this institution, succeeding Philippe Gilson, who has retired.

#### **Projects**

To promote their musical heritage, the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and the Royal Library of Belgium organised concerts and conferences presenting musical sources kept on their shelves; the Concerto for saxophone by Paul Gilson, kept in the Conservatory of Brussels, was premiered in February 2020 in Brussels; unfortunately, due to the covid-19 crisis, concerts programmed between March and May had to be cancelled. During the academic year 2019–2020, the course Patrimoine musical belge. Questions de recherche, followed this year by the students from the Université de Liège, focused on the Belgian jazz musician Toots Thielemans (1922–2016), through the study of documents preserved at the Royal Library of Belgium. The research had to be adapted due to the covid-19 crisis because all universities and libraries had to be closed from March 2020.

## **Publications**

In December 2019, the Belgian publisher Brepols released *À la redécouverte d'Eugène Ysaÿe* (352 p.) by Marie Cornaz, a biography partly based on documents (letters, scores, iconographic material) kept within the Eugène Ysaÿe collection of the Royal Library of Belgium.

## **RILM and RISM**

The Music Division of the Royal Library is the Belgian seat 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, using the database software Kallisto and then Muscat.