

Belgium / België / Belgique

Belgian Federal institutions and Belgian French-speaking institutions Submitted by Marie Cornaz (Royal Library, Brussels)

Membership

In 2025, 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-la-Neuve and Liège universities.

Acquisitions

In 2024-2025, the Royal Library of Belgium had the opportunity to enrich its music collections with documents from the violinist Gabriel Ysaÿe, the collector Édouard Niffle and the composer Paul Uy; the institution also received on deposit from the King Baudouin Foundation the personal archives of Henry Le Boeuf containing several thousand letters and archives documents. Among the heritage acquisitions of the library of the Brussels conservatories, we can mention the collection of recordings collected by André Kert, the guitar scores collected by Michel Burton, as well as archival documents concerning Jules Demeur, Eric Feldbusch and Joseph Jongen.

The library of the Mons Royal Conservatory has received the music collection from the Visart de Bocarmé family.

Digitization

In 2024-2025, the Royal Library of Belgium continued its running digitization projects concerning music, with new references from the Ysaÿe and Franck collections, from the public domain as well as from his three-dimensional and sound archives.

The Royal Conservatories of Brussels and Liège maintained their digitization projects, according to the researchers' and musicians' requests (without online accessibility).

Cataloging

In 2024-2025, Musiques & Recherches continued to describe new documents into the database Électrodoc, comprising more than 17,000 electroacoustic musical works. The library of the Royal Conservatories of Brussels continued to encode new descriptions visible through the online catalog (which includes nearly 170,000 records in June 2025). The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) library continued to use Limo (Alma) for cataloguing, while the Liège and Mons Conservatories continued to encode documents through PMB.

Proiects

Since the 2024-2025 academic year, the library of the Brussels Conservatories was moved to three sites: the State Archives in Leuven, the MIM and the Royal Library of Belgium, the latter institution hosting the staff for the duration of the work on the historic building (estimated at 5 years). In order to promote their musical heritage, the Brussels Conservatories and the Royal Library of Belgium welcomed trainees and organized concerts. The two institutions worked on the reopening of the KBR Museum (June 2025), which includes a space dedicated to Franco-Flemish music and the library of the Dukes of Burgundy. The library of the Liège Conservatory inaugurated a new storage space, meeting optimal conservation standards. Librarian Stéphanie Fruzzetti has started a series of weekly conferences during which she presents to the public a musical manuscript from the collections.

RILM and RISM

The Music Division of the Royal Library is the Belgian seat for the international RILM and RISM projects and participates actively by encoding new publications and descriptions.