



## **Belgium / België / Belgique - 2016**

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

#### **Membership**

There are no new members amongst the Belgian Federal institutions and the Belgian French-speaking institutions or personal members. In May 2016, the Belgian Federal institutional 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. Belgium / België / Belgique

#### **Acquisitions**

In May 2015, the Royal Conservatory of Liège bought a collection of documents from the Belgian collector Eric Mathot. It contains more than 4,000 titles of orchestral material of jazz, chanson and popular music from the first half of the 20th century (see [http://bibli.student-crlg.be/opac\\_css/index.php?lvl=section\\_see&location=14&id=128](http://bibli.student-crlg.be/opac_css/index.php?lvl=section_see&location=14&id=128)). It constitutes a complementary set to the Eric Mathot Collection acquired in 2011 by the Royal Library of Belgium which contains more than 40,000 titles of orchestral material, as well as illustrated scores, 78-rpm records, photographs, and commercial catalogues.

In October 2015, the Royal Library of Belgium ([www.kbr.be](http://www.kbr.be)) had the opportunity to purchase a collection of music manuscripts and sketches by Henri Vieuxtemps. (1820-1881). This arrival is a significant addition to the existing collection of manuscripts of this Belgian violinist and composer that was entrusted to the Royal Library in 2011 and 2012 thanks to the King Baudouin Foundation. The Music Division of the Royal Library of Belgium is now the most important centre for the preservation and conservation of the works of this internationally renowned musician. Some music sources from the Royal Library of Belgium have been used by Henle Verlag for their Urtext editions series (Opus 30, 36 and 37 - 5th Violin Concerto - prefaces by Marie Cornaz, Royal Library of Belgium & ULB, chair of the IAML Archives and Music Documentation centres branch).

Thanks to Belgian journalist Michèle Friche, former teacher in the Royal Conservatory of Mons, this institution acquired the Fernand Leclercq Collection in 2015. That same year, the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (French-speaking division) purchased the collection of the Belgian violinist Auguste Rouma (1802-1874) comprising more than 1,000 documents (including prints unknown by RISM, as well as music manuscripts). Thanks to the King Baudouin Foundation, the collection of Belgian jazz musician Jean Vanden Heuvel (1926-2015), (known as Jean Warland), has been acquired by the Musical Instruments Museum (MIM, [www.mim.be](http://www.mim.be)) and will be known as the Jean Warland Collection. This archive contains musical instruments but also sound recordings and archival documents. It is complementary to the Robert Pernet Collection, acquired in 2004, giving to the MIM the opportunity to develop an expertise in Belgian jazz history. The MIM library has also received by donation the collection of the French anthropologist Alain Desjacques, containing musical instruments from Mongolia but also sound recordings, scores and books in several languages.

## Digitization

In 2015-2016, the Royal Library has significantly increased the number of its digitized music sources. Within the project DIGIT-03 – funded by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Administration – the Royal Library started the digitization of the Fétis Collection. Up to May 2016 1,313 references have been scanned (2,050 volumes; 210,000 scans) and 380 of them are already available online (27 volumes; 5,362 pages). In parallel, the Royal Library continued its program of digitization of printed volumes by scanning 23 volumes of a collection of programs from the Théâtre de la Monnaie (1813-1825), which represents the production of 16,617 pages; and by publishing online a selection of 600 music sheets published in Belgium in the 19th century (6,000 scans). The Royal Conservatory of Brussels also continued its digitization project, thanks to new material recently acquired.

## Cataloguing

Musiques & Recherches continued cataloguing in the database Électrodoc ([www.musiques-recherches.be/fr/electrodoc](http://www.musiques-recherches.be/fr/electrodoc)). This database includes books, periodicals, electro-acoustic works, and audio and audio-visual formats. It accounts for nearly 3,300 sound recordings and more than 20,000 music works.

In July 2015, the library of the Royal Conservatories of Brussels presented its new online catalogue (<http://catalog.c-bc.org>). The online catalogue of the Royal Conservatory of Mons, which was launched in October 2013, grew in 2015 and now contains 23,000 descriptions (<http://biblio.artsaucarre.be>).

The new OPAC of the library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège ([http://bibli.student-crlg.be/opac\\_css/](http://bibli.student-crlg.be/opac_css/)) provides a greater visibility to the collections, as evidenced by the increase of requests by researchers and musicians in 2015.

The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM) and the Royal Library, two federal institutions, are part of the common catalogue of the Belgian federal libraries ([www.bib.belgium.be](http://www.bib.belgium.be)). The MIM's library continued adding new data to this catalogue, not only reference books but also music scores and, more recently, videos produced by the team of the MIM in the course of research projects or concerts.

## Projects

To promote their musical heritage, the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and the Royal Library of Belgium organised concerts and exhibitions presenting the musical sources kept on their shelves; some sources are also studied in the framework of pedagogical projects developed within the institutions or in partnership with other institutions; in December 2015 and to conclude Mons 2015, European Capital of Culture, the Royal Library had the opportunity to recreate the opera *Le retour des plaisirs* by André Vaillant in the course of a partnership between the Royal Library, that holds the sole extant musical source of this work, and the Mons Conservatory. The manuscript was entirely transcribed by Kris De Baerdemacker, musician and staff member of the Music Division. On 11 December 2015 a group of students of the Royal Conservatory, under the direction of Guy Van Waas, performed the opera in the Palace of Charles of Lorraine in Brussels (this building is part of the Royal Library); this premiere was followed by two performances in Mons (December 2015) and in Valenciennes (May 2016).

In 2015, the printed series launched by the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (French-speaking division) in 2014 and published by Castejon Music Editions (<http://www.castejon-music-editions.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=61>) released two new publications, presenting sources by C. P. E. Bach and Charles-Joseph van Helmont preserved in the institution, with prefaces by Olivia Wahnnon de Oliveira (French-speaking Librarian of the Brussels Conservatory).

As part of Mons 2015, European Capital of Culture, researchers from the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and the Royal Library worked together to complete two books that will be published by Brepols in 2016. In connection with this, the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) and its 'Centre de Recherche en Musicologie' organized in Mons, in October 2015, an exhibition entitled 'Hainaut, terre musicale à l'âge baroque' presenting documents from more than ten Belgian and French institutions.

During the academic year 2015-2016, the course Patrimoine musical belge. Questions de recherche, given by Marie Cornaz and followed by students from the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Université catholique de Louvain, focused on the Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1931) by studying as yet unknown letters kept in the archives of the Royal Palace in Brussels and by comparing these documents with items preserved in the Eugène Ysaÿe Collection of the Royal Library. At the same time, the course Musiques sacrées given by Céline Drèze at the Université catholique de Louvain focused on the recently discovered music collection of the St Vincent collegiate church of Soignies, while the seminar given at the Université libre de Bruxelles was devoted to 'Musique, confession et territoire dans les anciens Pays-Bas, 1500-1650: le cas de Douai et de sa région', in the context of a research project directed by Marie-Alexis Colin (ULB) and Ian Fenlon (Cambridge University).

Valérie Dufour (ULB), who co-directed the IMS Study Group 'Stravinsky Between East and West' (with Natalia Braginskaia), organized with Timothé Picard (Université de Rennes) the international conference 'Théories et conceptions de la critique musicale au XXe siècle comparées aux autres arts' in October and November 2015 at the Brussels University and at the University of Rennes (France).

### **Publications**

Valérie Dufour (ULB) co-directed with Robert Wangermée the publication of the volume 'Modernité musicale au XXe siècle et musicologie critique. Hommage à Célestin Deliège' (Brussels, 2015, 204 pages). The volume 'Musical Life during the Second World War' is edited by Christopher Brent Murray with Marie Cornaz and Valérie Dufour. Published by the Belgian Musicological Society, this trilingual publication contains articles presented as papers at the international conference organized in 2013 at the Royal Library of Belgium.

### **RILM and RISM**

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

Since 2014, Marie Cornaz is member of the Coordinating Committee RISM Advisory Council. In December 2015, Patrizia Rebullà (RISM Brussels office, volunteer at the Music Division of the Royal Library of Belgium) compiled a map plotting all the Belgian institutions having a RISM siglum. Each entry has links to relevant online information, such as address, library catalogue, brief descriptions of content and bibliography. The map is available on the RISM Belgium webpage: <http://www.rism.info/en/workgroups/belgium-rism-belgium/home.html>.

### **Future plans**

Between 2015 and 2019, Marie-Alexis Colin (Université libre de Bruxelles) and Émilie Corswarem (Université de Liège) will supervise the research team involved in the project 'Musique et processus identitaire: le cas des églises nationales (16e et 17e siècles)'.

Marie Cornaz (Royal Library of Belgium) is member of the scientific committee of the exhibition 'Elisabeth. Passion for the arts' that will take place in the Brussels Royal Palace during the summer 2016. This exhibition will underline the particular role played by this Queen in the Belgian musical world of her time (by funding the Queen Elisabeth Music

Competition and the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel), showing music scores, instruments and also documents recently discovered in the archives of the Royal Palace (including two autographs by Camille Saint-Saëns).

In 2016, the Royal Library of Belgium will start a new digitization programme dedicated to 78rpm music sound recordings. By the end of 2018, more than 3,000 hours of recorded music will be digitized and published online. This project includes the production of metadata and the digitization of about 36,000 sides of 78rpm discs. The selection covers the Yves Becko Collection (which is mostly dedicated to Belgian singers at the beginning of the 20th century), and the Marc Danval Collection (which is mainly dedicated to jazz music). First issues should be online by the end of 2016.

Marie Cornaz

Royal Library, Brussels (May 2016)