

Belgium / België / Belgique

Belgian Federal institutions and Belgian French-speaking institutions or members

Membership

Of 33 Belgian members (as of June 2014), there are 28 institutions and 5 individual members. Of the 33 members, 18 are Belgian Federal (bilingual) institutions and Belgian French-speaking institutions or members. The following report concerns only those last institutions and members.

In May 2013, the Belgian Association of Music Libraries (BAML) group of Belgium (15 of the 29 Belgian members at that time) sent a project proposal for the constitution of a Belgian branch (open to all Belgian IAML members) to the IAML board. Following a second proposal submitted in July 2013 suggesting the creation of a Flemish regional group (excluding the Belgian non-Flemish institutions), the IAML board asked to the Belgian members to find a solution together. After the Vienna conference in July 2013, some members of the BAML group have proposed alternatives to the Flemish members of IAML via the Flemish association, De Vlaamse Vereniging voor Bibliotheek, Archief en Documentatie vzw (VVBAD), but those proposals were not considered and not discussed; it is the reasons why IAML has still no Belgian branch in June 2014. The BAML group hopes that in the near future a solution respectful of Belgian diversity will be found.

Acquisitions

In 2014, Musiques & Recherches, an association dedicated to acousmatic music (www.musiques-recherches.be), made the acquisition of nearly 300 sound recordings and books about electroacoustic music.

Between 2007 and 2014, the library of the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB - www.ulb.ac.be) acquired music archives coming from Célestin Deliège (1922–2010) and his wife Irène Deliège (1933–). Irène Deliège, a cognitive scientist, specializing in music cognition, established the European Society for the Cognitive Sciences of Music (ESCOM). The archives of the association are now also available at the ULB's library. In March 2013, the international symposium “Modernité musicale au XIXe siècle et musicologie critique. Hommage à Célestin Deliège” was organised in Brussels in partnership with the ULB and the Royal Academy of Belgium. In 2014, the important sound recordings' collection of the collector Jacques Strouk (1913-2009) also joined the ULB's library. Work on this collection of more than 15,000 records will be developed in partnership with the Royal Library of Belgium.

In December 2013, the Royal Library (www.kbr.be) had an opportunity to purchase from a private collector the manuscript of the opera *Le retour des plaisirs*, an opera created in the Belgian city of Mons in 1719. The composer, André Vaillant, was active both in the French city of Valenciennes and in Mons. No other music of this composer was known until now. This opera will be produced during summer 2015 in the context of *Mons 2015, European Capital of Culture*, as a collaborative effort between the Royal Library and the Mons Conservatory.

In March 2014, the Royal Library made the acquisition of the manuscript of Eugène Ysaÿe's *Légende norvégienne*, a previously unknown work by the Belgian composer, for violin and piano. The work was composed in spring 1882, while Ysaÿe was on tour in Norway, and was performed in public for the first time in Bergen on 30 April of that year. The work will be recreated in October 2014 at the Royal Library of Belgium, with violinist Marc Bouchkov. Among other outstanding and important acquisitions by the Royal Library was a first edition of Dmitri Shostakovich's

Symphony No. 11, with an autograph dedication of the composer to the Belgian conductor André Cluytens.

The library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège (www.crlg.be) received a collection of about 800 CDs as a donation of the Belgian musicologist Jérôme Lejeune.

Digitization

In April 2014, the Digitization division of the Royal Library completed its far-reaching digitization of periodicals, printed books, and illustrated sheet music related to, among other things, the *Europeana Collections 1914-1918* project (www.europeana.eu and its thematic dissemination channel www.europeana1914-1918.eu) and the European Library (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org). At the same time, the project DIGIT-03 was launched. DIGIT-03 is the new multiannual digitization program funded by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Administration. It aims to digitize more than hundred thousand pages of printed material within the library, including books, journals, and treasures from the Music collections. The famous Fétis collection has been selected as priority within this new program.

Cataloguing

Since October 2012, the Royal Conservatory of Mons is part of the Academy of Arts, now called ARTS² (École Supérieure des Arts – www.artsaucarre.be). In 2013, the music collections were installed in new larger rooms and in October of that year, the project of online cataloguing started (with the use of the free software PMB). The valuable collections of this institution are studied by students and researchers

from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Royal Library in the framework of the project *Mons 2015, European Capital of Culture*.

In order to modernize its online catalog, the library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège, in partnership with the library of the Royal Conservatory of Mons, has decided to export more than 74,000 entries into a new cataloging system. This will allow a new OPAC to be available online in September 2014.

In 2014, the Brussels Conservatory (French-speaking division) (www.conservatoire.be) realised the inventory and the cataloguing of Belgian composer Fernand Brumagne's collection (1887-1939). The library also continues its retrospective cataloguing project.

During the academic year 2013-2014, the library of the Royal Conservatory of Liège achieved the inventory and cataloguing of 256 items coming from the music collection of the Chiroux Library (Liège).

During the academic year 2013-2014, the music department of the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) developed its musicological library in order to make the necessary reference books available to students.

Musiques & Recherches continued cataloguing in the database *Électrodoc* (www.musiques-recherches.be/fr/electrodoc). This database includes books, periodicals, electro-acoustic works, and audio and audio-visual formats.

The Musical Instruments Museum (MIM - www.mim.be) and the Royal Library, two federal institutions, are part of the common catalogue of the Belgian federal libraries (www.bib.belgium.be). The MIM's library has continued to introduce new data in this catalog, concerning reference books but also music scores.

Projects

In October 2013, the Royal Library of Belgium organised, in partnership with the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Belgian Musicological Society (Société belge de musicologie / Belgische Vereniging voor Muziekwetenschap) an international symposium entitled *Musical Life in Belgium during the Second World War*, with researchers coming from Belgium, France and the United States. At the symposium, Olivia Wahnou de Oliveira (librarian of the Brussels Conservatory, French speaking division) presented her research concerning the Brussels conservatory during World War II; a concert was also organized in order to highlight a series of works preserved in the Eric Mathot collection of the Royal Library (which entered the institution in 2011) and that were part of the repertoire played in Brussels during the War.

The Brussels Conservatory's library holds Joseph Jongen's (1873-1953) collection. In the context of the 60th anniversary of his death, an exhibition and a concert were organized in 2013 to highlight the work and the life of this important Belgian composer. In 2014, The Brussels Conservatory also welcomed an exhibition dedicated to C.P.E. Bach, organized together with the Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel (Flemish Brussels Conservatory). The library holds approximately 600 manuscripts of the German composer.

In the framework of the Bicentenary of the birth of the Belgian Adolphe Sax, a music exhibition dedicated to this fascinating figure is taking place in the Music Instruments Museum (MIM) between February 2014 and January 2015. In June 2014, more than 70,000 people had already visited this exhibition. A catalog available in French, Dutch and English completes the visit. In July 2014, the international symposium “Adolphe Sax, His Influence and Legacy: A Bicentenary Conference” is organized at the MIM, within a partnership between the Music Instruments Museum

(MIM), the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) and the Belgian Musicological Society.

Between June and August 2014, the Royal Library is dedicating its “Librarium” museum space to music. Exceptional music documents of all periods will be on exhibition, including a manuscript by Tinctoris’ (end of the 15th century), a volume of Cavalcanti’s music, or some autographs by Vieuxtemps and Ysaÿe. This space will welcome on 16th July a number of IAML guests, in the framework of the “Brussels day” - IAML Antwerp, in which the Brussels Conservatory and the Music Instruments Museum (MIM) take part too.

MONS 2015

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 are working together on several scientific projects. Two books are in preparation and will be published by Brepols in 2015. Important religious music collections and documents archives will be presented in these publications for the first time.

Within its project *Hainaut, terre musicale 17e-18e siècles*, the musicological research centre of the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), CERMUS (Centre de recherche en musicologie), that brings together French and Belgian musicologists, studied religious music collections kept in the State Archives in Mons, which were nearly unknown until then. Some research results were presented during two symposia, organized in Louvain-la-Neuve in November 2013 and in Valenciennes (in partnership with the French Association ‘Harmonia Sacra’) in May 2014.

In 2014-2015, the course *Patrimoine musical belge. Questions de recherche*, given by Marie Cornaz (Royal Library of Belgium & ULB), will be open to the students of the three Belgian French-speaking universities, UCL (Louvain), ULB (Brussels) and ULg (Liège).

Upcoming

The Royal Library of Belgium in partnership with the Béla Bartók Archives of Belgium will organize a Bartók Symposium on 7 and 8 November 2014, in order to highlight the Denijs Dille collection kept in the institution, a very rich ensemble containing music autographs, printed scores, letters, photos, and archival documents concerning the Hungarian composer.

RILM and RISM

The Music Department 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 restarted the encoding of descriptions in RISM, using the database software Kallisto.

Since 2014, Marie Cornaz is member of the Coordinating Committee RISM Advisory Council

Awards

In 2014, Valérie Dufour (IAML individual member, head of the ULB's research center MuCiA - <http://mucia.ulb.ac.be>) received a special mention at the "Prix des muses" (France) for her book *Igor Stravinski. Confidences sur la Musique. Textes et entretiens choisis, édités et annotés* (Arles : Actes Sud, 2013).

Marie Cornaz
Royal Library, Brussels