

Belgium – Flemish-speaking

Digitization

VIAA, the Flemish Institute for Archiving, focused initially on audiovisual material. Since 2013, its scope has been enlarged to include photographs, archives and other materials. One of the first aims is to digitize the audiovisual collection of broadcasting companies and cultural organisations, and to make them available for education, public libraries and scientific research: www.viaa.be.

Publications

The printed edition of Flemish music in the series Repertoire Explorer by Höflich continues; about 100 volumes are yet published.

The Study Centre for Flemish Music published and upgraded several composers' biographies in Dutch and English on its website www.svm.be.

Musical heritage

The Flanders Heritage Library launched a new platform for crowdfunding: www.boekensteun.be. It concerns mostly restoration projects. Three of them are related to music: a set of 18th- and 19th-century opera libretti, a processional from 1550 from a béguinage collection (a béguinage is a house for members of a lay sisterhood) , and a Hawaiian manuscript of Father Damian, a 19th century priest famed for his work with lepers in the Kingdom of Hawaii .

The Royal Conservatory Brussels, School of Arts of the Erasmus University College, celebrates the tercentenary of C.P.E. Bach's birth in 1714 by a scanning project of the historical sources, an exhibition and a symposium. This project is financed by the research group Trobador, of the Flemish Conservatory.

Het Firmament, a centre of expertise for the cultural heritage of performing arts in Flanders, launched its new, interactive website: www.hetfirmament.be .

The commemoration of the beginning of the First World War in 1914 hits also the world of music. Among the several initiatives, we mention the Gregynog Festival in Wales. The program is devoted to Belgian musicians who lived as refugees in Wales during the war: www.gregynogfestival.org . The Royal Conservatory of Antwerp commemorates the music from the War period with an exhibition.

Resonant, Musical Heritage in Flanders, published a free online book in Dutch. It is a practical guide for music organizations. This publication will answer all important questions about archiving and heritage: www.muzikaalerfgoed.be.

Library meetings and organization

During the Vienna Conference in 2013, the idea was launched to create a Belgian Association of Music Libraries (BAML) as an umbrella structure, covering the needs of BFAML (the Belgian French-speaking group) as well as those of IAML-F (IAML-Flanders or the Belgian Dutch-speaking group). Both BFAML and IAML-F worked out proposals independently. The IAML Board merged those proposals into a formal BAML proposal. One of the keys to the merged proposal is the fact that the different cultural communities would get the working space they need, giving this proposal a chance for success. In addition, the federal institutions would have different possibilities for involvement. Although this proposal is still considered as a compromise, the umbrella structure is accepted by the majority of IAML-F members.

The Flemish Library Organization, www.vvbad.be, organized a two-day conference on library policy in September 2013. There was no special focus on music collections, but many subjects, such as digitization, heritage management and social media, were also relevant for music librarians.

The Muziekcentrum Vlaanderen organized the annual *Staten Generaal van de Klassieke Muziek* [States General of the Classical Music] in November 2013. Among the different topics, attention was given to sheet music: The Development of a Portfolio Model for Contemporary Scores, by Matrix, www.matrix-new-music.be, and a panel about Digital Scores and Innovation.

A working group of the Platform of Art Libraries in Flanders, www.okbv.be, developed a data model for the description of auction catalogues.

Finally, the main activity by the members of IAML-F was the organization of the IAML conference Antwerp 2014: <http://www.libraryconservatoryantwerp.be/iaml2014>.

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