



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

Belgium / België

Music Libraries in Flanders and Brussels - Report 2015

General situation.

The past year has been difficult for music libraries. Due to the poor economic situation, most cultural institutions, including music libraries, had to deal with budget cuts, going from five to twenty percent, affecting operating and human resources.

The survival of a number of public libraries, including music sections, is in question. This is a result of a political decision to abolish provincial governments and give the full decision-making rights to the local municipalities.

Despite these negative tendencies, the music library sector is still very much alive and increasingly creative.

Library meetings and conference.

The VVBAD, the Flemish Library Association, organised several seminars and workshops. The workshop, *Reinventing the Public Library* (28 November 2014, Brussels, Royal Library), and the seminar, *Image Building for Libraries* (2 February 2015, Mechelen), are perfect examples.



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The most important activity, however, was the IAML conference in Antwerp (13-18 July 2014). The Antwerp Conservatoire welcomed more than 300 participants to the arts campus deSingel. The intensive programme contributed to the success of this meeting, but were also helped by the IAML chocolates, the Seef beer, and the great weather. A conference report was published in *Meta*, the periodical of the Flemish Library Association.

Institutional changes.

CeBeDeM, the Belgian Music Documentation Centre, went bankrupt in the course of 2014. Two propositions for the conservation of the heritage collection were submitted, each with a different vision and concept. Finally, the proposition of the Brussels Conservatories was adopted by the General Assembly of CeBeDeM. The collection moved to Brussels, but a number of Flemish composers claimed back their compositions in order to place them in a library of their own choice.

Since January 2015 the Flanders Music Centre, a documentation and promotion centre, has been incorporated in a new coordinating organisation: the Flanders Art Institute.

Collections.

The private archive of Gerard Mortier (1943-2014) was assigned to the Akademie der Kunste in Berlin.



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The Brussels Conservatoires acquired a large collection related to violinist and composer Dieudonné-Pascal Pieltain (1754-1833).

Digitisation.

The library of the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp has digitised more than 1,500 Flemish music scores. These scores, mostly manuscripts, can be downloaded directly from the library catalogue:

<http://anet.ua.ac.be/desktop/apcon>

Musical heritage.

MATRIX [New Music Centre] organised a small exposition for the Tenso Days of contemporary choir music in Mechelen, showing the rich history of electronic music. Earlier, MATRIX mounted an exhibition on musical heritage in contemporary music. MATRIX also launched a new website for the TRANSIT new music festival. This heritage project focuses on the artistic archive of the festival and the challenge to appeal to an audience.

A unique Hawaiian music manuscript dating from the 19th century, preserved in the Father Damien Collection in Leuven, was in danger, but thanks to crowdfunding, the fragile document could be restored.



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Looking for Irving Berlin Avenue somewhere in Flanders? Or Sullivan Avenue? Why not Nellie Melba Street? They are easy to find via the webpages devoted to musical street names: <https://muzikalestraatnamen.wordpress.com>. The purpose is to raise public awareness for musical heritage, starting with very common everyday items such street names. The blog is an initiative by Resonant, Centre for Musical Heritage.

The centenary of Vic Legley's birth (1915-1994) was the perfect occasion to set up an exhibition devoted to the Belgian composer, but the most important celebration of his centenary will be the online thematic catalogue of Legley's works.

Miat, the Museum for Industry, Labour and Textile curated *Piano & Co*, an exhibition on the 250 years history of the Belgian piano industry.

Publications.

The Study Centre for Flemish Music has published its hundredth Flemish music score with Musikproduktion Höflich in Munich.

(www.musikmph.de/musical_scores/information/flemish.pdf). These publications include a trilingual introduction (Dutch, English, German).



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Internationalisation.

For the first time in Belgium, the European Leonardo da Vinci exchange programme took place in a music library. The Royal Conservatory of Brussels (Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel) organised an internship with the Conservatorio Nino Rota di Monopoli, Italy, in which cataloguing was the focal point, especially Italian libretti and violin methods.

The first catalogue in Belgium to be incorporated into OCLC is Anet's catalogue, the Antwerp cataloguing network that also includes the library catalogue of the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp.

Membership.

IAML-Flanders, or IAML-F, is the Dutch-speaking association in Belgium, welcoming all music libraries, archives and documentation centres of Flanders and Brussels. Despite considerable budget cuts, the number of members (30) remains stable.

Jan Dewilde

The Royal Conservatoire in Antwerp