

Report for Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section, IAML congress, Riga 2017

Chair Nienke de Boer, Dutch Ballet Orchestra

Vice chair Peter Linnitt, Royal College of Music, London

Secretary Lena Nettelblatt, Stockholm University of the Arts

The Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section had one working meeting, one visit to a library and one session at the Congress in Riga 2017

Working meeting Monday June 19th 2017, 14 attendees

Digitized music treasure

Eric van Balkum was the Librarian at the Netherlands Broadcasting Music Library until its closure in 2013. He is now employed on a two and a half year digitization project. He presented the website [Muziekschatten](#) (Music Treasures). From the collection of more than 300,000 items 5,000 items have been digitized and are available free to be downloaded. In the digitized collection there are many compositions that were composed and arranged specifically for broadcasting, most of them unconventional and seldom played, with a focus on Dutch composers from the beginning of the 20th century. Eric is working with a collection of music for light music ensembles. Some of these ensembles existed for just 3 weeks while others lasted for 35 years. The digitized music was all rights-cleared by a copyright organization that no longer exists.

The Netherlands Broadcasting Music Library is no longer a working library but is more like an archive for the Dutch Radio Choir and the Dutch Radio Philharmonic Orchestra; it has no public function. The old [catalogue](#) is very well developed: searching can be by performing ensemble, playing time and publisher. The physical collection of sheet music is located in Hilversum, but it is not possible to borrow from this collection.

Music department in National Library of Latvia

Marina Mihaileca is in charge of the department for sheet music and music literature at the National Library of Latvia. She began by praising the Director of the library, Andris Vilks, who had devoted 25 years to the project to build the new library building which is called the Castle of Light. The architect Gunnar Birkerts sadly died on the 15th August this year.

The music department has 9 staff. They have started to build an electronic catalogue but are still using the card catalogue. The library has printed music by the most famous Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks. Marina showed us 8 volumes of choral music from the song festivals. It is possible to buy the music from the publisher [Musica Baltica](#) which is the major publisher for Latvian music.

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra

Alexander Palmer works for The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra which is funded by both government and private donors. The library is small and the music collection is not accessible to the public. The largest section covers music from the baroque and early romantic periods.

Sometimes a full orchestral score of a piece does not appear to exist. As a composer and an arranger he makes around 12 new editions each year from parts found at IMSLP or in the library's collection. He prepares all the parts for the orchestra. The main goal is to perform little-known music.

The orchestra wanted to perform Paganini's fourth violin concerto. The score was only available in facsimile and did not match with the parts, so Alexander made a new edition. It has not been published, and was

digitized for the orchestra only. Conductors often choose music from festivals or recordings, not from music that the library owns. If sheet music can't be found Alexander advises contacting the orchestra that has performed it most recently.

Session Tuesday June 20 2017

41 attendees

The session opened with the election of new officers.

Chair: Sabina Benelli, La Scala, Milano

Vice chair: Peter Linnitt, Royal College of Music, London

Secretary: Tone Nøtvik Jakobsen, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation

We need to let the people take part

Kathrin Greger from Berliner Philharmonic told the story of the Berliner Philharmoniker's Digital Concert Hall. It started as an initiative by the conductor Herbert von Karajan in 1996. He allowed space on stage for cameras, saying 'We need to let the people take part'.

The internet was an essential tool to take the project forward. Deutsche Bank has supported the project from the start. The orchestra has broadcast live since the 2008/2009 season and the database contains more than 1,000 complete works, historic recordings, documentaries and interviews. Every bar is prepared for camera work beforehand. There are currently 850,000 private users. [The Digital Concert Hall has offered institutional access](#) since 2016. It is now possible to enable multiple user access by IP address.

In cooperation with Barbara Wiermann from the Sächsische Landesbibliothek in Dresden the Digital Concert Hall has a project to create MARC records with uniform titles and authority files connected to VIAF (Virtual International Authority File). The records are in WorldCat, the global catalogue of library collections. Peter Linnitt from the Royal College of Music in London confirmed that the Digital Concert Hall is a very popular resource in his institution. It can also be used offline on an iPad.

Medici.tv

David Ryfman and Coralie Gardet came from Paris and told us about medici.tv. Since 2008 they have offered access to live or on-demand concerts, operas, ballets, documentaries, competitions, festivals, artist portraits, behind the scenes programmes and master classes. They have 1,800 videos growing by 200 programmes a year. They also stream live from opera houses and concert halls with availability afterwards on replay.

The site has 200,000 visitors each month and subscribers in 25 countries. They offer institutions the opportunity to subscribe and synchronize the [medici.tv](#) catalogue with their own catalogue. They offer unlimited multi-user, remote access on all digital devices. There is a 30 day free trial available. User statistics cover the number of visitors and the length of visits. Various options are available: subtitles; variable image quality dependent on internet connection; direct access to an aria within an opera; synopses and other details. It is very user friendly with the facility to create personal playlists, access search histories and related recommendations.

The importance of music libraries to conductors and orchestras

Margus Kasemaa is the conductor of Tartu Wind Band in Estonia, and founder and artistic director of the International Wind Band Festival. He also works in two primary schools as a musical instrument teacher. He collaborates with the National Library in Estonia and also, for many years, with the Music and Theatre Library in Stockholm. He often visits the library in Stockholm to look for new pieces for his orchestra to play. Margus arranges the music to suit his orchestra. He has always to consider how many players there are in the orchestra: for instance, sometimes in the Estonian song festival orchestra there might be up to 1,500 players.

It is necessary for the orchestra to borrow sheet music because they do not have the financial resources to buy a whole orchestral set. Libraries often have good collections with original prints and libraries are the only place where the sets are retained. Margus Kasemaa appreciates this opportunity to examine, rediscover and present valuable old music.

Visit to the Music collection at the National Library of Latvia

The library was founded in 1919. The project to build a new library started in the 1980s. The new library is called the Castle of Light and was finished in 2014. One feature of the library is the "nation's book shelf" containing 5,000 books donated by the citizens of Riga. Every donor has written a dedication on the title page and every title page has been digitized. A cabinet with 70 drawers contains [folksongs collected by Krišjānis Barons](#) at the end of the 19th century.

Marina Mihaileca guided the tour around the music collection department. It is an archive for Latvian composers' music, both printed and in manuscript. The library has a huge collection of orchestral scores of the most requested repertoire, a lot of music magazines and music literature. The collection is regularly supplemented with legal deposit copies of Latvian editions. A lot of effort is put into digitization of old sheet music.



1. Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section: Nienke de Boer, retiring chair, Lena Nettelbladt, retiring secretary and Peter Linnitt vice chair. (Photo: Johan Eeckeloo)

2. Marina Mihaileca showing a score in the music department in the National Library of Latvia. Evabritt Selén (Sweden), Mari Liis Tuvi and Margus Kasemaa (Estonia) and Nienke de Boer (Netherlands). Behind Marina is Margareta Odenman (Sweden). (Photo: Lena Nettelbladt)