

Czech Republic, report 2006

The Czech National Branch has now twenty-three full members, out of this eleven are international. We have contacts with other Czech and Moravian music libraries, which participate fairly regularly in our common events.

The General Meeting of the Czech National Branch took place in October 2005 in the newly-reconstructed Czech Museum of Music building. In addition to the regular agenda, which included the election of the new committee, the participants could explore the Czech Museum of Music and to see the newly-reopened collection of musical instruments, which had been closed for many years.

To accelerate and improve the exchange of information and knowledge about each other we initiated the creation of our own website. It is being designed by Mr. Tomas Kucera from the Music Department of the Jiří Mahen Library in Brno, who will also be the webmaster. There are negotiations underway about placing this website on the National Library server.

The Music Department of the Jiří Mahen Library, which is very active within our group, organized at the end of May the sixth seminar from the cycle of lectures from musical history. These lectures are focused on the education of librarians in music libraries, this year's seminar was about Mozart, his relationship with Moravia, and about Salieri. These very popular lectures are held by a teacher from the Masaryk University, the composer and musicologist Miloš Štědroň.

There is continuing very good cooperation between our Czech branch and the Slovak National Branch. Apart from other activities, we have been attending each other's meeting for the past three year where we can discuss our problems and exchange our experiences on solutions to those problems.

An amendment of The Czech Copyright Law has come into power about a month ago. It bans "making copies from published sheet music including music dramas". This year's general meeting and seminar of the Czech National Branch will be dealing with this important issue. It will take place in autumn in the Hradec Králové Municipal Library.

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