



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)

Lithuania - Report 2015

The Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, on the occasion of its 95th anniversary, issued the 3-CD set “*Balsai iš praeities: prieškario Lietuvos atlikėjų įrašai šelako plokštelėse*” (Voices from the Past: Pre-War Lithuanian Performers on Shellac Records). It contains rare and authentic recordings of performers from the 1917–1954 period who shaped the national operatic traditions: Jonas Būtėnas, Antanas Sodeika, Kipras Petrauskas, Vladislava Grigaitienė, Marija Lipčienė, Vincė Jonuškaitė, Jadvyga Vencevičaitė, Marijona Rakauskaitė, Elzbieta Kardelienė, Stasys Liepas, Julija Dvarionaitė, Izabelė Motekaitienė, and Alė Kalvaitytė. In order to prevent the recordings from deterioration, they were transferred onto digital media and published on the web portal of the Lithuanian cultural heritage www.epaveldas.lt (66 recordings in total).

In 2015, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania will participate in a project financed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture: “Development and Promotion of the Video and Sound Archive of the National Archival Fund of Published Documents (NPDAF) by Acquiring a Unique Collection of Lithuanian Pianola Rolls from the Early 20th Century”. The project’s goal is to acquire 70 Lithuanian pianola rolls and present the sound files to the public. The music performance data stored on pianola rolls represent a part of the Lithuanian musical heritage that has been little investigated. These rolls have not been included into the Universal Bibliographic Digest of Lithuania, nor have they been an subject in Lithuanian musicological studies nor have they played any part in the national cultural self-perception. So far we know of only a few private collections in Lithuania that contain pianola rolls but we also know of some



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)

that can be found in Lithuanica archives in the USA. The pianola rolls capture a unique period in the musical life of the USA's Lithuanian community (the peak of its popularity was 1920–1930), which can be examined directly through authentic sonic material. In the early 20th century, these recordings were a vital part of the life of Lithuanian expatriates in the USA and their national identity in general: the rolls contain songs by famous composers, the national anthem, fragments from Mikas Petrauskas's opera *Birutė*, and a great number of uniquely arranged folk songs (in total, there are more than 300 pianola rolls with Lithuanian musical data). The rolls are unique examples of musical media almost entirely unknown to the general public; their digital copies will be, therefore, presented on the electronic heritage portal www.epaveldas.lt.

The Department of Audiovisual Arts of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities of the Kaunas University of Technology continues its participation in the project “Publishing of Lithuanian Music Scores in 1990–2015. Bibliographic Research,” funded by the Research Council of Lithuania. The project's principal goal is to register all Lithuanian music scores published in Lithuania and abroad between 1990 and 2015, and summarize and identify peculiarities and tendencies of Lithuanian music score publishing. A digest of all registered publications described in line with international standards (about 2,500 items registered and described so far) is intended to be published in January 2016.

The Audiovisual Collection of the Sound, Video and Information Technologies Centre at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre underwent fundamental renovation in 2014: premises were refurbished and the software and audiovisual equipment upgraded. Visitors are able to listen to the collection containing more than 36,000 recordings, and compose and edit music using the newest modern technologies.



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)

2013 was a pivotal year for the Public Music and Art Library. Following the regulation of November 2013 of Vilnius City Municipality, the Library's premises situated in the Vilnius Historic Centre were sold. The art and music collections were stored at a location outside the Library for the first time in 24 years since the Library was established in the Old Town, and the community was left without an art library.

On 2 January 2015, the Central Library of Vilnius City Municipality was opened. It is a modern library occupying a three- storey building. The Music and Arts Library is situated on spacious premises on the first floor. Unfortunately, the Library's space diminished by one-third. It was forced to discard some "unattractive" publications and many duplicates. The number of holding items decreased from 60,000 to 29,000 (including 15,000 sound recordings). The Library preserved the vinyl records, which now are experiencing renaissance.

There is a particular part of the collection which is worth a special notice: the donations to the music and art library from colleagues from abroad. They are the BBC Radio recordings received from the IAML's United Kingdom and Ireland Branch and Yale University's Irving S. Gilmore Music Library Collections.

The new premises allow to provide up-to-date services to the users: there is a universal system of electronic reader's card; the Library provides the service of answering online queries; and it has modern audio equipment. All the three staff members of the Library have been participating in qualifications development events. New databases and the Sibelius music notation software have been implemented. The Library organizes trainings on using new software programs, musical events, piano and vocal lessons, and tours and lessons for elementary



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)

school students. It must be said that the Music and Art Library may boast of more than a decade-long active participation in the activities of IAML. The nearest goal is to make contacts with similar library departments in Riga and Tallinn.

The Music Department of the National Library of Lithuania maintains its function as the leader of the National RILM Committee and participates in RILM and the RISM Ser. A/I and A/II projects.

Živilė Časaitė

Head of the Music Department, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius