



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)

## Netherlands, report 2012

In the course of the year 2012, the impact of the measures taken by the right wing government to cut the budget in the field of culture was felt, and indeed its outcome can only be seen as a severe blow to culture politics in The Netherlands. Despite the fact that the government had to resign due to mistrust about the European budget issues by the populist party PVV, and the birth of a new initiative by the two remaining parties and three factions in the opposition, enabling the Netherlands to meet the challenge to cut the general budget to the European standards of the maximum of minus 3%, many of the measures already taken could not be reversed. This is especially the case with the so-called sector-institutes, organized by the disciplines of culture (theatre, film, community and amateur arts) and which had been doing a fine job over the past decade in the field of music as well. Activities of the Muziek Centrum Nederland (MCN) such as the archiving of Dutch musical life, the publishing of scores by Dutch composers, and its functions a branch in the section of music documentation will come to an end. The same is true for the Nederlands Muziek Instituut (NMI) in The Hague and the Theater Instituut Nederland (TIN). The liquidation of these institutions will be a severe loss both in terms of the know-how of its staff and public accessibility to all the treasures that have been collected over the years. Several dozen skilled and committed employees will be forced to resign, which is both a personal tragedy and a severe loss of knowledge, international bonds, and experience in the field of culture in the Netherlands.

Negotiations between the *Special Collections Department* of the University of Amsterdam and the threatened institutions have taken place in the course of 2012, resulting in at least one solution for the MCN holdings. The University of Amsterdam will take over vital elements of the MCN collections, such as the renowned Jazz Archive, the archives of the Gaudeamus foundation, and a selection of books and periodicals suiting the needs of students, journalists, critics, researchers, and staff in the field of musicology. Still, great deal of work needs to be done, and a final solution is only foreseen in the course of 2013, when all of the catalogue comparison and corrections and other information infrastructure should have been realized.

All of these developments will affect NVMB as well, as the institutions mentioned are all very prominent members of the national IAML-branch. Moreover, the foreseen loss of membership will be felt in the ranks of IAML too.

Still, there is positive news as well from the site of NVMB. The national organization for the public libraries (SIOB) allowed NVMB an endowment, enabling Rob Coers and Jeroen de Boer to develop a digital device called 23 Muziekdingen ([www.muziekdingen.nl](http://www.muziekdingen.nl)) as a follow-up and variation to the global success of the Helene Blowers (Library of Mecklenburg County/North Carolina-USA) initiative 23 Things, launched in 2006. Summer 2012 saw the upstart of this digital instrument, enabling a broad audience to benefit from the knowledge of specialists in the field of music.



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When in Dublin, attending the 2011 IAML conference, NVMB-president Jantien Dubbeldam had an interview with ISMN-chairman Hartmut Walravens, which prompted the Board to mobilize consciousness about the ongoing loss of printed music as a result of continuous deselection by public library collections. These lead to a meeting in The Hague with Royal Library general director Bas Savenije, followed by meeting with SIOB director Maria Heijne. In both sessions we discussed how we can prevent collections from disappearing from the public domain when the holding institutions are to be closed down.

The Montréal congress was very well organized and the Dutch delegation appreciated the warm welcome and (social) program that our Canadian friends had been able to mount for their colleagues from all over the globe.

NVMB organized two study sessions, one in spring and one in autumn, where some thirty members per event attended. April 27 was a festive day for Martie Severt, as he was awarded by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix the knighthood of Orange-Nassau, the civil order for outstanding services to the country. Martie was decorated in Amsterdam, on which occasion his commitment with both NVMB and IAML was referred to, in addition to his work as the library manager of the Muziekcentrum van de Omroep (MCO).

Musicology professor Rokus de Groot (University of Amsterdam) retired in May, and after his farewell lecture his many friends and (international) colleagues presented him with a *liber amicorum*, edited by Utrecht University professor Sander van Maas, and entitled *Liber Plurimum Vocum voor Rokus de Groot*. (Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam 2012, ISBN: 9789081848800).

Ria Warmerdam did a very good job in the restyling of the NVMB website ([www.nvmb.nl/](http://www.nvmb.nl/)). With the help of her brother, Willem Warmerdam, a specialist in web design, the website gained considerably in transparency and navigability.

NVMB has 93 members, 59 institutional, 19 extraordinary, and 15 individual. The President is Jantien Dubbeldam (ArtEZ Conservatorium Arnhem), the Secretary is Els van Swol (Muziek Centrum Nederland), and the Treasurer is Martie Severt (Muziekcentrum van de Omroep). The Board members are Willem Rodenhuis (till 1 May 2012), Cora Mulder, and Ria Warmerdam.

*Willem Rodenhuis*

*Board Member, IAML (The Netherlands) / NVMB*