

Born-digital personal archives of composers (and other musicians): first steps at the British Library

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Born-digital music archives working group (or, BDMAWG)

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**...building on work in Contemporary Archives team -
hybrid literary archives...**

e.g.

- Wendy Cope (40,000 emails...)
- Hanif Kureishi
- Will Self

Jonathan Pledge & Eleanor Dickens (2017), 'Process and Progress: working with born-digital material in the Wendy Cope archive at the British Library', Archives and Manuscripts, DOI: 10.1080/01576895.2017.1408024

Callum McKean (2020), 'Born-Digital Literary Archives – how we're capturing the future', on [BL English & Drama blog](#)

Brian Elias, b. 1948

Initial discussions:

- finding out about working method
- computer and software history

Initial capture:

- old Mac Mini;
- appraisal in the eMSS lab, with composer

Second capture:

- for full disk imaging, on new machine, from home

[... a certain amount of trial and error]

File formats:

.sib [Sibelius]
.doc
.pdf
.mp3 and .wav
[.jpeg]

Processing/metadata

- ePADD: for email
- DROID: for everything else

Lockdown activities

Digital Preservation Coalition R[apid] A[ssessment] M[odel] – action plan (<https://www.dpconline.org/our-work/dpc-ram>)

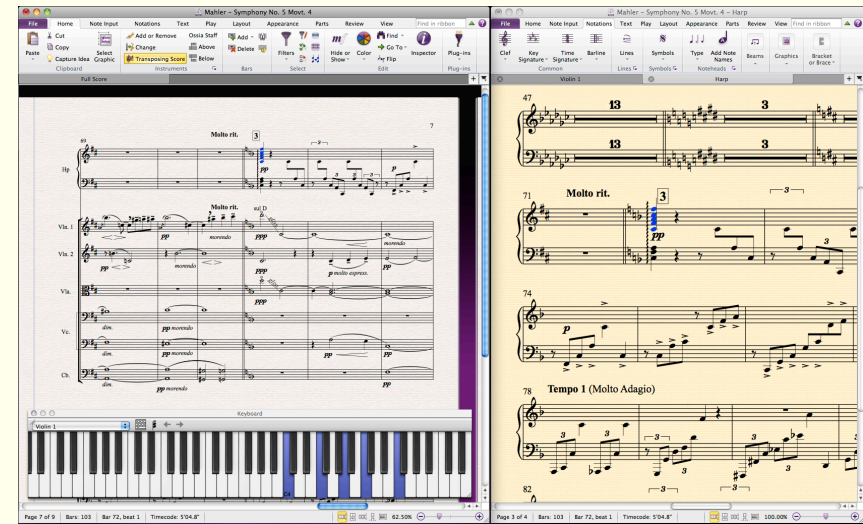
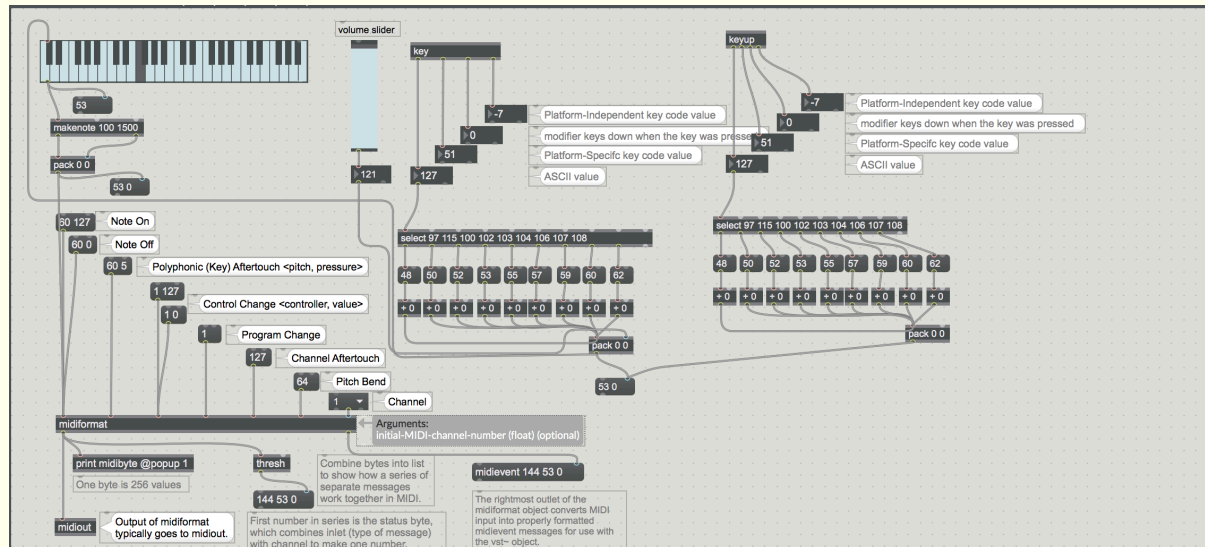
- Raising awareness
- Reviewing documentation and policies for acquisition

Longer term -

- Digital Preservation
- Access (PDF/A? ---- emulation?)

Challenges / the future

- Value/acquisition issues
- Resource and technology support
- Digital Preservation
- Access (PDF/A or emulation?)
- Changing software
- Things other than notation...



Thank you!

Any questions? / Further discussion...

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