

# Study group on Access to Performance Ephemera

Stellenbosch 2024

# Agenda

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Report from last meeting, July 2023
- 3. Projects added to IAML website page
- 4. Reports and updates
- 5. Digital ephemera and the challenge of archiving

This is an opportunity for anyone to share their experience of archiving events which are now managed and promoted only in digital format. What challenges do they pose for librarians and archivists? Should we archive the websites of festivals, theatres and concert halls? How can this be managed?

#### Terms of reference

The various types of document produced to accompany musical performances, such as concert programmes, posters and tickets, are primary sources of information for historical and musicological research. Their importance has been highlighted by the increasing prominence of reception studies and histories of performance in musical scholarship. They also have a wider significance for understanding the social and cultural significance of concert activity, the activities of amateur and professional musicians, and the history of choirs and orchestras. The improvement of access to performance ephemera is an important strand in the provision of the necessary resources, and IAML is in a position to offer a forum in which scholars and library professionals can exchange views and explore new strategies.

The Study Group will: review developments and new (mainly online) resources; exchange information about new IT and bibliographic strategies; promote ways to maximise the impact of relevant datasets and digital resources; and explore innovative methods to curate and interpret data employing a range of Digital Humanities techniques, such as crowdsourcing and text mining, in order to release the full wealth of information embedded in collections of performance ephemera.

The Study Group will provide a forum for discussion of strategies to encourage the improvement of access to performance ephemera (including programmes, posters, flyers, and tickets) both nationally and internationally, and where appropriate to develop common approaches and/or standards.

# IAML Study Group on Access to Performance Ephemera 2023-2024 report

The study group met in Cambridge in 2023; it has a flexible membership and is open to all, and continues to keep a watching brief on developments in access to ephemera and to publicise resources and projects on the IAML webpages. Group members have reviewed online resources and projects on the IAML website, and updated the website pages with projects currently in progress and databases of performance ephemera.

Stefan Engl reported on a new crowdsourcing project on Vienna TheatrePlaybills, which had already amassed a good deal of data shortly after it started, using volunteers to input transcriptions: <a href="https://wienbibliothek.crowdsourcing.wien/theaterzettel/">https://wienbibliothek.crowdsourcing.wien/theaterzettel/</a>

Rachel Cowgill gave an update on the Intermuse project <a href="https://intermuse.datatodata.org/">https://intermuse.datatodata.org/</a> which aimed to capture often elusive data relating to live music events, especially community events, using regional and local cultural institutions.

Rachel also leads a related pilot project from the University of York is Our Place (<a href="https://ourplace.whereweare.org/">https://ourplace.whereweare.org/</a>) which has created a collection of resources aimed at helping 'do it yourself' archiving for community groups — 'from folk clubs to club nights' - to archive their own music events and preserve memories and traditions, as well as gathering and promoting existing archives. These local and community events and their related ephemera are most vulnerable to loss, and examples of the sort of records which have been gathered by the project can be found here <a href="https://ourplace.whereweare.org/examples/">https://ourplace.whereweare.org/examples/</a>

Barbara Wiermann updated the meeting on developments at the musiconn project <a href="https://www.musiconn.de/">https://www.musiconn.de/</a>, specifically in the performances section <a href="https://www.musiconn.de/en/services/musiconnperformance">https://www.musiconn.de/en/services/musiconnperformance</a> which now incorporates the databases of many other projects <a href="https://performance.musiconn.de/projects">https://performance.musiconn.de/projects</a>

There was a lively discussion of the challenges of archiving digital ephemera, and how this might be achieved. It was suggested that although websites can be archived, it is unrealistic to attempt any sort of complete archiving of music events and related digital ephemera, and perhaps samples or slices of data could be archived digitally and in a systematic way.

Since the 2023 meeting a new resource in the UK is the archives of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester <a href="https://archive.halle.co.uk/">https://archive.halle.co.uk/</a> This database contains over 40,000 entries with listings of works, artists, soloists, concert halls and more. Concerts in Manchester are the current focus, but as the database develops, content for concerts outside the Hallé orchestra's home city will increase. The project began in 2002 when the UK's National Lottery Heritage Fund supported one student volunteer to manually input data for the concerts conducted by the orchestra's founder, Sir Charles Hallé. Since then, with further funding, a bank of skilled volunteers have been trained as part of the project, allowing them to continue this work.

The IAML website holds a list of the projects and databases relating to ephemera, at <a href="https://www.iaml.info/projects-related-history-musical-performance">https://www.iaml.info/projects-related-history-musical-performance</a>. I will be pleased to add further links

Katharine Hogg June 2024

## Projects related to the history of musical performance

## **Collection description projects**

- Concert Programmes Project (UK & Ireland)
- <u>Europeana: art, books, films and music in European museums, libraries and galleries</u>
- •<u>musiconn.performance: a national infrastructure for decentral</u> cataloguing of musical events from music performance ephemera

## **Digitisation projects**

- •Coral Sant Jordi (Fons Digital Oriol Martorell) (Universitat de Barcelona)
- Playbills of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh
- •<u>Programmarchiv der Frankfurter Museums-Gesellschaft (1860-2013)</u>
- John Johnson collection (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
- •Orquesta y Coros Nacionales de España (2007-2008; 2011-2018)
- Teatro de la Zarzuela (2006-2018) [See in "Otras temporadas"]
- •Carnegie Hall Archival Collections
- •Archives de l'Opéra Comique

#### Performance Databases

- Brigham Young University Performance
- •Repertoire of the Fondación Juan March, Madrid
- •Palau de la Música / Orfeó Catalá, Barcelona
- •Reid Concerts at the University of Edinburgh Since 1841
- •Royal Opera House Performance Database
- Scottish Theatre Programmes Database
- •Repertoire of the Thomaskirche, Leipzig
- •<u>Thüringischen Staatsarchiv: Theaterzettelproject</u>
- Würzburger Theaterzettel (1804-1902)
- •<u>Database of concerts in Budapest, from 1900</u>
- •Playbills of theatrical performances in Debrecen (1862-1920)
- •<u>Database of performances of the National Theatre in Prague</u>
- Archiv des Konzertlebens, Berlin (SIM PK)
- Onstage: database of performances in Switzerland
- •La Monnaie/De Munt opera house, Brussels
- •BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels)
- •Transit New Music Festival, Leuven
- •London Stage Database 1660-1800
- •V&A Theatre and Performance Archives
- •Leeds Playbills
- Opera Scotland listings and performance history
- •Royal Albert Hall, London, performance archive
- Linked stage graph (photographs and metadata from

Stuttgart State Theatre, 1890s to 1940s)

## Research projects

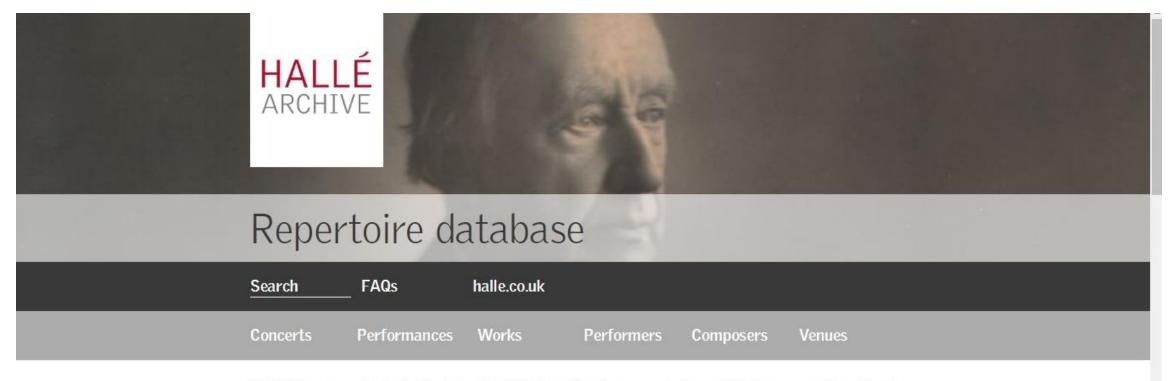
- •Concert Life in 19th Century London Database and Research Project
- •Prague Concert Life, 1850-1881: an annotated database
- •<u>The Internet of Musical Events: Digital Scholarship,</u> Community, and the Archiving of Performance (datatodata.org)
- •<u>Performance Database of the DFG-funded Project Opera buffa</u> as a European Phenomenon Migration, Mapping, and <u>Transformation of a New Genre</u>

# Reports and updates

#### Hallé Orchestra

Since the 2023 meeting a new resource in the UK is the archives of the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester <a href="https://archive.halle.co.uk/">https://archive.halle.co.uk/</a> This database contains over 40,000 entries with listings of works, artists, soloists, concert halls and more. Concerts in Manchester are the current focus, but as the database develops, content for concerts outside the Hallé orchestra's home city will increase.

The project began in 2002 when the UK's National Lottery Heritage Fund supported one student volunteer to manually input data for the concerts conducted by the orchestra's founder, Sir Charles Hallé. Since then, with further funding, a bank of skilled volunteers have been trained as part of the project, allowing them to continue this work.



The Hallé has been performing in Manchester since 1858. Its archive of programmes helps to tell the famous story of Manchester's music making and music makers. Thanks to the diligent work of volunteers, we are now able to share decades of our main series of Manchester concerts information with you. Use this online database to search for repertoire we have performed, venues, conductors, soloists and other information. Alternatively, explore the full up to date lists from the menu bar above. We look forward to sharing even more of our performance history with you as we work through the hundreds of programmes yet to be transcribed, such as Proms, special concerts and tours.

Search	FAQs	halle.co.uk			
Concerts	Performa	ances Works	Performers	Composers	Venues
Search for t	ext (min word lengtl	ı 3 characters);			
Title / comp	ooser / performer / n	otes			
Search only:					
Conce	erts	Performances	Works		Performers
Comp	oosers	Soloists	Conductors		
Date From:					
1	<b>∨</b> Jan	<b>∨</b> 1857			
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1	<b>∨</b> Jan	<b>v</b> 2024			
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Search

Search	FAQs	halle.co.uk			
Concerts	Performances	Works	Performers	Composers	Venues

# Rachmaninov, Sergei

Role: Soloist Notes: Pianist

# Performances

Ref	Title	Concert	Venue	Date
056/14/2	Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No2	056/14	Manchester Free Trade Hall	29/01/1914
056/14/4a	Prelude in C Sharp Minor, piano solo	056/14	Manchester Free Trade Hall	29/01/1914
056/14/4b	Prelude in G sharp minor, piano solo	056/14	Manchester Free Trade Hall	29/01/1914
056/14/4c	Prelude in G minor, piano solo	056/14	Manchester Free Trade Hall	29/01/1914
077/19/3	Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini, for piano and orchestra, $\mbox{Op} 43$	077/19	Manchester Free Trade Hall	07/03/1935
078/19/2	Concerto for Piano No3 in D minor, Op.30	078/19	Manchester Free Trade Hall	12/03/1936
080/19/2	Concerto for Piano Nol in C	080/19	Manchester Free Trade Hall	10/03/1938
080/19/4	Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini, for piano and orchestra, Op.43	080/19	Manchester Free Trade Hall	10/03/1938
081/19/3	Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No2	081/19	Manchester Free Trade Hall	09/03/1939

# Leeds Libraries – playbills and tickets

The public library in the city of Leeds, UK, has pioneered the collection of digital images relating to performances in the area. The project is part of the Local and Family History Collection, rather than the music department, and has two performance databases – playbills and tickets.

The collection of more than 5,000 playbills, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 1990s, are physical playbills which belong to the library, and were digitised for conservation purposes. They focus on theatre and circus performances, but include a good number of concerts.

A note on the website cautions that the language and imagery used in the historical playbills reflect the context and culture of their creators, and may include words, phrases, and attitudes that would now be deemed insensitive, inappropriate or factually inaccurate.

## https://www.leodis.net/AdvancedSearch

Drop down menu 'Collections' allows choice of photographs or playbills. The photographs collection also includes images of musical performances and performance venues in Leeds, both from the library collections and private collections.

#### **Grand Orchestral Pieces**



View full size

Save to album +

#### Description

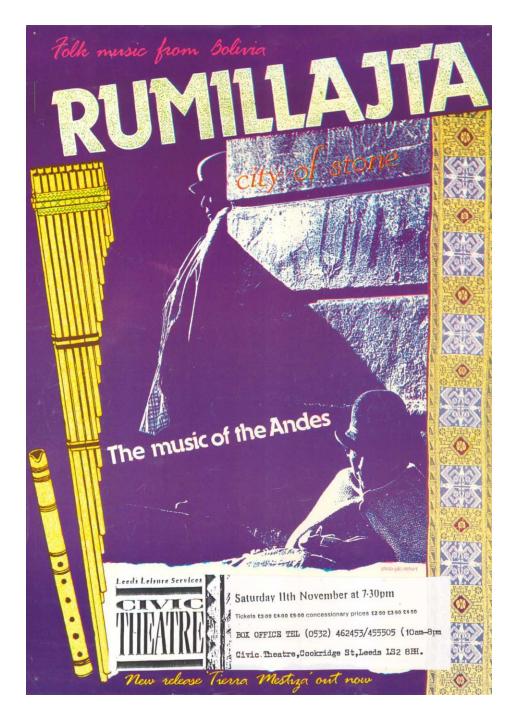
20/08/1870 Princess Theatre

ID: 2003106\_4185122

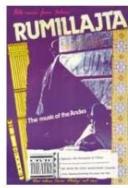
Saturday, 20th August, 1870. Tonight is the 'Grand Re-Opening Night' of the Princess' Concert Hall after 'the completion of extensive alterations'. The Concert Hall now has '...magnificent decorations, new scenery & embellishment as well as a superb illuminated Proscenium'. Furthermore, the Orchestral Department has been considerably enlarged and now has a Full Band of upwards of 30 Instrumentalists!. Each night there will be 4 Grand Orchestral Pieces, '...by the best Band in the Provinces'.

Orchestra Includes: J. Devereux, Mr. Hill, Mr. Romis, Mr. H. Morley, Mr. Eccles, Mr. Williamson, Mr. F. Howe, Mr. E. Morley, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Wickett, Mr. Dearlove, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Lax, Mr. Montague, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Ramsden, Mr. G. Harding, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Beeley, Mr. Philips, Mr. Archer, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Ormond, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Hobson, Mr. W.H. Hall

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#### Rumillajta - Music of the Andes



This photograph cannot be purchased due to copyright restrictions.

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#### Description

11/11/1989 Civic Theatre

ID: 20031114 38755435

Saturday, 11th November, (1989). Tonight at the Leeds Civic Theatre, audiences will be entertained with a concert by 'Rumillajta', bring music from the Andes and Bolivia to Leeds. The Playbill also advertises the new release of, 'Tierra Mestiza' available at the shops now. The entertainment will commence at 7.30pm.

Artistes include members of 'Rumillajta'

Show full description

Copyright: Leeds Libraries - Playbills Collection

Keywords: Rumillajta - Music of the Andes, Civic Theatre, Leeds

Class number: Local Studies Library CT 35

Email corrections

Comments (0)

Post a comment

## **Leeds Gig Heritage**

www.leodis.net

Advanced Search: select <u>Leeds Gig Heritage</u>

The Leeds Libraries ticket collection is a crowdsourcing project which grew from the personal collection of a member of library staff. Anyone with an old ticket stub or a memory of a past Leeds gig can contribute to the collection, by uploading an image of their ticket, which is then given basic indexing by library staff and added to the digital collection.

A call-out on social media resulted in hundreds of tickets being uploaded; the only specification being that it must be of a performance in Leeds, and the collection ranges from performances by international stars to small local bands.

There is a blog about the project here:

https://secretlibraryleeds.net/2023/11/30/leeds-gig-heritage/

# 10 Results

#### Back to advanced search

Your search term:



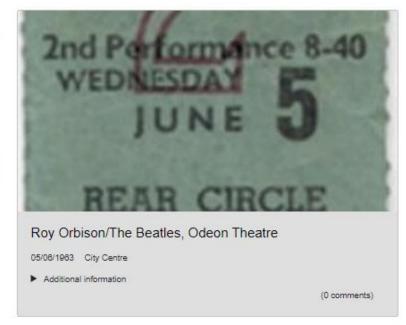
Acker Bilk / The Beatles, Queens Hall

28/06/1963 City Centre

Additional information

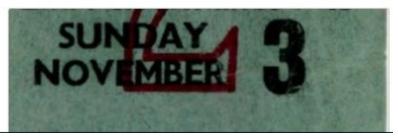
(0 comments)

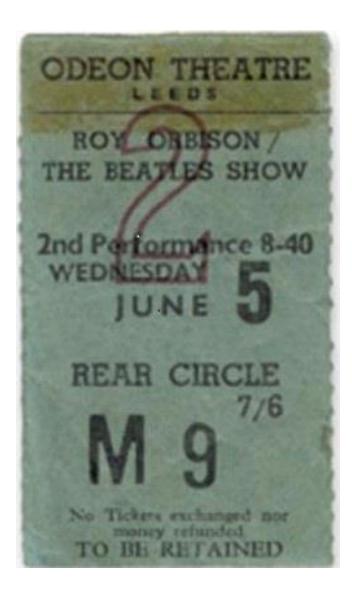












#### Description

05/06/1963 City Centre

ID: 20231201\_139207

Roy Orbison/The Beatles

Odeon Theatre

Wednesday 5th June [1963]

2nd Performance 8-40

Rear Circle 7/8

Copyright: Leeds Gig Heritage

Keywords: Leeds Gig Heritage

Class number: LEO 13401

Show less

Email corrections

Comments (0)

Post a comment

## The Hepworth Band, Yeadon Town Hall



View full size

Save to album +

#### Description

27/10/2017 Yeadon

ID: 20230724\_138366

Aireborough Rotary Club Annual Brass Band Concert 'A Festival of Brass'.

The Hepworth Band. Conductor Frank Renton

Yeadon Town Hall

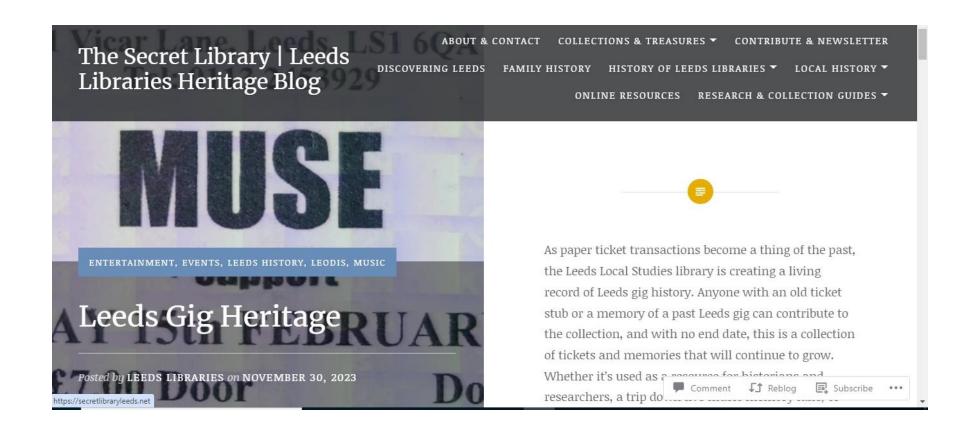
Friday 27th October 2017

7.30pm

Ticket £12.00 including programme

This photograph cannot be purchased due to copyright restrictions.

Show less



https://secretlibraryleeds.net/2023/11/30/leeds-gig-heritage/

# Open to all:

Opportunity for all delegates to share news of projects relating to ephemera, informally or as a brief presentation.

Contributions from delegates from Africa are particularly welcome, and any sharing of information about ephemera collections on the African continent.

Stefan Engl – Vienna playbills crowdsourcing

Barbara Wiermann – Musiconn

# Digital ephemera and the challenge of archiving

This is an opportunity for anyone to share their experience of archiving events which are now managed and promoted only in digital format. What challenges do they pose for librarians and archivists? Should we archive the websites of festivals, theatres and concert halls? How can this be managed?

IAML Study Group on Access to Performance Ephemera

www.iaml.info/study-group-access-performance-ephemera

ephemera@iaml.info