



Visit to the Krakow Opera house 17.07.2019

Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section, IAML conference 2019

On Wednesday morning a group of 15 people from the BOL Section visited Opera Krakowska, the Krakow Opera House. We were met by the very lovely opera librarian Karolina Gwardzik, the orchestral librarian Leszek Pacanek and the PR employee Mateusz Ciupka.



Members from the IAML BOL Section visiting the Krakow Opera House



The Opera Krakowska is a relatively new opera house and the opera company is only existing since 2008. Before that time in Krakow operas and operettas were played at the larger theatres in the city. The building is situated where a former operetta building was placed (see illustration), and the company consists of approximately 30 opera singers. They also have a ballet company at similar size. The orchestra employs about 75 players.

The librarian Karolina Gwardzik

Tak było...



...tak jest



How it looked before and how it looks now



The new Opera House

In the foyer we had a bit of a fun quiz to guess which operas they had spectacted out from the vast number of opera posters from their premieres.



Posters in the foyer



We could visit the stage, the orchestra pit and the hall, which are currently under renovation during the summer pause. The audience has a capacity of 700 seats; the orchestra pit moves to enlarge the stage if necessary. Sceneries can be recovered on the sides of the stage when needed.

The season features opera, operetta, ballet, concerts, and special performances for children and schools; most titles are sold out in little time, due to the high interest of the public in music performance. Didactical and educational activities, as well as exhibitions, integrate the season programming.

We moved then to the offices containing documentation related to management and performances, and to the workroom of the orchestra music librarian, where a smart system of shelves allows displaying in different positions the orchestral parts and the scores of all titles handled during the season.



Documentation stored in one office

The archives are recently starting to digitalize the documents; at the moment, more options about configuration of digital archives are discussed.



Librarian Karoline Gwardzik illustrating work at the Opera House

The visit ended with the promise to keep in touch for the next times.

Sabina Benelli, chair
Tone Nøtvik Jakobsen, secretary