IAML
Study group on Access to Performance Ephemera

2020

Agenda

- 1. Summary of activity

- 2. Projects added to IAML website page

- 3. Draft template for performance and ephemera database

Access to Performance Ephemera Study Group

Summary of activity

This Study Group met twice in Krakow last year, and there was also a session of papers relating to performance ephemera in the conference programme. It continues to keep a watching brief on developments in access to ephemera and to publicise resources and projects on the IAML webpages.

The German Musiconn database presents a model of a detailed database of performance data and links to ephemeral materials from a range of libraries and institutions. Other resources are generally specific to an institution or performance group or venue.

The Study Group has considered the challenge of many datasets compiled outside a library environment, by broadcasters, event marketing websites, performing groups and performance venues. The creators of this data do not necessarily consider interoperability and international standards for descriptions, or address issues of sustainability beyond their immediate project life. Following some requests for assistance with these areas, and at the meetings in Krakow it was agreed that it would be desirable for this Group to create a prototype template for performance data.

A draft template has been created and comments are invited. It is hoped that it can be made available on the IAML webpages as a model which can be adapted to suit the requirements of the particular resources.

IAML Study Group on Access to Performance Ephemera

In the past year a number of ephemera project and database links have been added to the IAML Ephemera webpages.

Please let me know of any other projects or resources for performance ephemera, so that they can the be added to the webpages.

The current list can be found at https://www.iaml.info/projects-related-history-musical-performance

In the UK there is currently a proposed project called *The Internet of Events: Digital Scholarship, Community, and the Archiving of Performance*, which is at the funding application stage.

There is also a PhD project in progress which includes creating a database of musicians' networks in 18th-century London. This is a linked database of musicians, venues and performances and should be available to demonstrate at the congress next year.

Projects related to the history of musical performance

View   Edit

- Collection description projects
- Digitisation projects
- Performance Databases
- Research projects

Collection description projects

- Concert Programmes Project (UK & Ireland)
- Musiconn.performance : Aufbau eines zentralen Rechercheinstruments für Music Performance Ephemera (Programme, Konzertankündigungen, Rezensionen etc.) 🗗
- Europeana: art, books, films and music in European museums, libraries and galleries 🗗

Digitisation projects

- Coral Sant Jordi (Fons Digital Oriol Martorell) (Universitat de Barcelona) 🗗
- Playbills of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh 🗗
- Programmarchiv der Frankfurter Museums-Gesellschaft (1860-2013) 🗗
- 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"] 🗗

Performance Databases

- Brigham Young University Performance Index
- Repertoire of the Fundación 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 (includes some concerts and concert venues)
- Repertoire of the Thomaskirche, Leipzig
- Thüringischen Staatsarchiv: Theaterzettelproject
- Würzburger Theaterzettel (1804-1902)
- Database of concerts in Budapest, from 1900
- Playbills of theatrical performances in Debrecen (1862-1920)
- Database of performances of the National Theatre in Prague
- 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

Draft template for music event database for ephemera

This is a proposed simple template for cataloguing music performances in order to link associated ephemera objects with them. It aims to provide those planning to create a database of programmes or other performance ephemera with a structure and content for their data, whether in a relational database such as the musiconn project (https://performance.slub-dresden.de/) or a simple flat structure for a small collection or organisation. It may be useful in particular to non-specialists in performing institutions who want to organise their own collections, as a guide to the type of information they may wish to include.

It does not attempt to encompass every aspect of a performance in the way that is addressed by projects such as the https://schema.org/MusicEvent, although this may be a useful tool for those planning a database of events. Nor does it prescribe the authority files which an event database may wish to use, as these may be dictated by national or institutional requirements, although it is recommended that databases follow a standard already in use, for example VIAF or an existing national authority file.

Its primary aim is to link various ephemeral materials to the event to which they are related, enabling diverse materials to contribute to a more complete overview of a performance.

Event information

Event type – use validation list (concert, music theatre, church music, other)

Event title – name of event

Subtitle

Date(s) – include 'wrong' dates where performance date changed or is mis-recorded. Either a repeatable field, or the whole event data should be recorded twice with a note referring to the differently dated entry. Perhaps using ISO 8601 format (21st July 2020 = 20200721)

Time – (ISO 8601)

Event series (festival, recital series, etc.) – name of series (Salzburger Festspiele, Promenade Concerts, etc.)

Event series dates - beginning and end dates (ISO 8601)

Place* - geo locators and venue names

Performers

People* – name, forename, dates, gender, activity/role (e.g. instrument, voice – use validation lists). Include performers advertised even if not in actual performance (use notes below to clarify changes)

Corporate names* - such as performing groups, sponsors, associated bodies, etc.

Works

 Works listed* - use uniform titles. Musiconn also has fields for musical forces (e.g. voice and orchestra), and for work type (e.g. string quartet) using validation lists. Include works advertised even if changed for actual performance

- **Sources linked**

- Programme - link to online copy or citation/location

- Ticket - link to online copy or citation/ location

- Bills/playbills - link to online copy or citation/ location

- Recordings (sound, image) – link to online recording or citation/ location

- Images (photos, drawings, etc) – link to online image or citation/ location

- Descriptions (published or unpublished diaries, letters, articles and books) - link to online copy or citation/ location

- 'Born digital' resources

- Reviews - link to online copy or citations/ location

- Performing materials - link to online citation/source, with description (e.g. conductor's marked score)

- Other databases – links to projects (secondary sources with further details)

Notes – free text to explain changes of performer, works, dates, etc. and other information to clarify people and corporate bodies listed above, e.g. supporters, beneficiaries

* Authority control

- for names from national authority resource or VIAF with cross-references (or repeatable field) for different forms of name.

- for works use uniform titles constructed according to international rules

Search fields

Each database will want to decide its own search criteria, but these are suggested as core fields for searching:

Event series

Event type and name

Date (range)

Place

Person + role

Corporate body + role

Composer + work

You are invited to submit comments on the draft template or anything else you would like to suggest that the study group should consider.

Please also send details of other music ephemera projects and databases which are not already listed on the IAML website

Interested in joining the study group?

Please contact the Chair, Katharine Hogg, at ephemera@iaml.info