



ROYAUMONT
abbaye & fondation



Press release

16 September 2016

Music libraries are special places that offer a synthesis of the tangible and the intangible, a hallmark of music. They serve researchers and music professionals – composers and performers – as invaluable resource and reference centers.

The Médiathèque Musicale Mahler and the Fondation Royaumont form a partnership

On Tuesday, September 13, 2016, Vincent Mouret, President of the Médiathèque Musicale Mahler (MMM), and Aldo Cardoso, President of the Fondation Royaumont, signed a cultural cooperation agreement establishing a long-term partnership between MMM and Royaumont. At the same time, the Fondation de France, represented by its President, Philippe Lagayette, extended agreement making available the building housing the MMM.



The Médiathèque Musicale Mahler wished to work with the Fondation Royaumont, a music institution pursuing objectives comparable to its own, in order to more closely engage with the music community in France and abroad.

The Médiathèque Musicale Mahler and the Fondation Royaumont share a common approach to conserving, expanding and sharing the musical heritage.

This partnership builds on exchange and cooperation programs that the two institutions have been developing since 2015.

Francis Maréchal, Director General of the Fondation Royaumont, will now also serve as Director General of the Médiathèque Musicale Mahler. The Fondation will make human resources and skills available to the Médiathèque Musicale Mahler and be represented in its governing bodies.

Contacts

Press Relations

Florence Petros

florencepetros@gmail.com

+33 1 47 34 05 68 / 06 86 41 74 73

Fondation Royaumont

Communication Department - Igor Szabason

igor.szabason@gmail.com

+33 1 30 35 59 79

Two unique institutions

Founded in 1986 by Maurice Fleuret and Henry-Louis de La Grange, the **Médiathèque Musicale Mahler** music library, located in the rue Vézelay in Paris's 8th *arrondissement*, houses historical collections – the La Grange/Fleuret collection and some 30 archive holdings – focused on the late 19th and 20th centuries. Its holdings include 17,000 books, 15,000 scores, 70,000 recordings and 16,000 reference files.

The MMM welcomes students, researchers and music professionals, carries out documentary and iconographic research for the press and music institutions and organizes exhibitions at outside venues.

The MMM is now one of Europe's leading privately held music libraries.

The Fondation de France owns, on behalf of the La Grange-Fleuret collection under its auspices, the building in which the Médiathèque Musicale Mahler is housed and a collection of documents and music scores. As the building owner, the Fondation de France has overseen the MMM and funded its operation for the past 25 years.

Created in 1964, the **Fondation Royaumont**, located at Royaumont Abbey in the Val d'Oise region north of Paris, which it owns, has become the leading European Cultural Encounter Center. As an international gathering place for musicians and dancers, it has focused for nearly 40 years on research, training, creative work and dissemination. It has forged partnerships with institutions of higher learning and programmers to support musicological research and the arts, more particularly in conjunction with the **François-Lang Music Library** (BmFL). The BmFL covers the period from the late 16th to the early 20th centuries (Debussy collection) and has gradually put together a collection of works from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The 1,300 titles of the outstanding collection of music manuscripts and publications put together by pianist François Lang (1908-1944) has been expanded with the addition of new acquisitions, donations and loans by private collectors and a reference library of some 3,000 musicology publications and music scores.

Acquired by the Fondation in 2007 and opened to the public in 2009, the BmFL provides inspiration for the music programs organized by the Fondation and its partners.

The Fondation and the MMM share a commitment to conserve, transmit and disseminate the musical heritage held by the two libraries, which spans western classical music from the 16th to the 21st century.

A common project

The common project is more specifically aimed at developing practical musicology based on an interpretative approach steeped in history. Building on close cooperation between researchers (musicologists, historians) and music professionals (performers, composers), the project will encourage musicologists to examine interpretation as part of their work and music professionals to study the sources and the history of interpretation in its various aspects (archiving, organology, sociology, aesthetics, etc.). The ultimate goal is to set the stage for interrelated research covering conservation, musicology, interpretation and composition; and for an overarching approach to research, training, transmission and dissemination.

The development of projects (see Annex 1) will build on partnerships with educational and research institutions in Paris, the Greater Paris area and abroad, including CNSMDP (Paris conservatory), the Pôles Supérieurs d'Enseignement Artistique (centers for higher education in the arts), universities and IReMUS (musicology research institute); and with performance and publishing organizations such as the Philharmonie de Paris, the Monte Carlo Spring Arts Festival, the Louvre Auditorium, the Orchestre Français des Jeunes and the Brepols and Salabert publishing houses.

In parallel with this program of activities, the Fondation and the MMM are jointly setting up a system to support cooperative library management of their collections in a spirit of skills sharing.

Thomas Vernet, head of the François-Lang Music Library at Royaumont, has been appointed Project Manager responsible for overseeing the collections and for working with MMM research assistants Alena Parthonnaud, Christiane David and Sonia Popoff to coordinate the activity and research programs of the MMM.

Conservation and documentary policy will be subject to approval by a Scientific and Technical Committee covering both libraries. Set up at the end of 2015, it is made up of prominent library science and musicology specialists (see Annex 2).

The MMM - BmFL partnership also plans to work with a number of scholarly societies that focus on areas related to the two libraries' collections – the Mahler Societies in Vienna, Geneva, New York, London and Amsterdam, the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) and the French Musicology Society.

The Médiathèque Musicale Mahler is supported by the French Ministry of Culture (DGCA and DGMIC), the Fondation de France and EY France.

The François-Lang Music Library is supported by the Comité Henry Gouïn, a club made up of companies that sponsor the Fondation Royaumont.

Annex 1

EXAMPLES OF PAST AND CURRENT PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY THE MEDIATHEQUE MUSICALE MAHLER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FONDATION ROYAUMONT

Common library card

A common library card has been created to facilitate the use of the two sites. Common digital tools will also make it easier to search the two holdings. The resources of the two libraries are complementary, so that researchers and music professionals could be welcomed by both institutions jointly and possibly supported by grants enabling them to carry out research or creative work.

Research

PIANO MUSIC OF THE ROMANTIC ERA

- Cortot (MMM) collection / F.Lang (BmFL) collection
 - April 2016: Research residency focused on the piano music of the Romantic Era, bringing together Jeanne Roudet (Paris-Sorbonne University), Keith Chapin (Cardiff University), Tom Beghin (Orpheus Instituut, Ghent) and Edoardo Torbianelli (Schola Cantorum, Basel)
 - 7-11 October 2016, in partnership with IReMus and the Philharmonie de Paris / Musée de la Musique: International symposium: “Romantic Eloquence on the piano: Beethoven and Chopin in Vienna and Paris”, Research papers – Interpretation workshops with the Fondation Royaumont laureates – Royaumont Festival concerts.

Professional training – Master class inspired by the MMM collections

PIANO MUSIC OF THE ROMANTIC ERA

- Cortot (MMM) collection / F.Lang (BmFL) collection
 - 20-22 May – Residential training: “Vocality on the keyboard: a research workshop on interoperation”, led by Jeanne Roudet (Paris-Sorbonne University), Edoardo Torbianelli and Ulrich Messthaler (Schola Cantorum, Basel) – 14 students from the Sorbonne in Paris, the Schola Cantorum in Basel and the Mozarteum in Salzburg.
 - 10-15 July, professional training: “Beethoven and his contemporaries, from op. 49 to op. 111”

With Alexei Lubimov (Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Moscow), Malcolm Bilson (Cornell University), Jeanne Roudet (Paris-Sorbonne University) - 10 trainees

THE MAHLER COLLECTION

-H.-L. de La Grange collection (MMM)

- 11-13 September 2016 – Professional training – “Enchanted humanity: the Lieder of G. Mahler” with Bernarda Fink, mezzo-soprano, Anthony Spiri, piano – 8 singers, 2 pianists

Dissemination

EXHIBITION

- H.-L. de La Grange collection (MMM)

- 19 March - 10 April 2016 – Exhibition: “Gustav Mahler – My Day Will Come” at the Monte Carlo Spring Arts Festival; presentation of photographs, music scores and objects from the Henry-Louis de La Grange collection, curated by MMM research assistant Alena Parthonnaud

PUBLISHING PROJECTS INVOLVING THE MMM COLLECTIONS

- Claude Helffer collection (MMM)

- “Music for piano – I. Xenakis”, publication of pieces for solo piano by Xenakis with commentary by pianist Stéphanos Thomopoulos, based on the Claude Helffer collection of scores and texts at the MMM. Published by Salabert in the autumn of 2016.

CONCERTS AT ROYAUMONT, THE CITÉ DE LA MUSIQUE, THE PARC FLORAL IN VINCENNES, THE GRAND THÉÂTRE DE PROVENCE IN AIX AND IN MERANO, ITALY

- Claude Helffer collection (MMM)

- 3 and 4 September 2016 as part of the Royaumont Festival – “Voix Nouvelles”
 - Recital - Stéphanos Thomopoulos, piano: Xenakis, Ravel, Debussy, Silvestrin
 - Recital - Imri Talgam, piano: Aperghis (prepared piano), Ligeti, Schumann, etc.

- H.-L. de La Grange collection (MMM)

- 1, 6 and 11 September 2016 – as part of the summer tour of the Orchestre Français des Jeunes, in Aix-en-Provence, Merano, Italy and Paris (Classique au Vert festival): G. Mahler – *Symphony No. 4*, David Zinman, conductor, Elsa Dreisig, laureate of the Fondation Royaumont, soprano
- 10 September 2016 – as part of the Royaumont Festival: recital - Bernarda Fink, mezzo-soprano, and Anthony Spiri, piano; Wolf - Mahler

- Cortot collection (MMM) / F.Lang collection (BmFL)
 - 7-11 October: Concerts held in conjunction with the “Romantic Eloquence on the piano: Beethoven and Chopin in Vienna and Paris” symposium
 - Recitals (as part of the symposium) - Tom Beghin, Malcolm Bilson, Ulrich Messthaler
 - Recitals (as part of the Royaumont Festival) Edoardo Torbianelli & Ludovic van Hellemont, Alexei Lubimov & Liza Miller

Annex 2

MEMBERS OF THE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE COMMON TO BOTH LIBRARIES

- * Mr. Mathias Auclair, Director of the Music Department at the French National Library (BnF)
- * Ms. Marie Cornaz, Curator of the Music Department of the Royal Library of Belgium
- * Mr. Nicolas Dufetel, Research Fellow at IReMus – Institut de recherche en musicologie/CNRS
- * Mr. Denis Herlin, Director of Research at IReMus – Institut de recherche en musicologie/CNRS
- * Ms. Jane Gottlieb, Head Librarian at the Juilliard School, New York
- * Ms. Catherine Massip, Honorary Director of the Music Department at the French National Library (BnF)
- * Mr. Christian Meyer, President of the Internationale Gustav Mahler Gesellschaft, Vienna